No 9
Mitsuru Hattori
SANKAREA
UNdYiNG love

SANKAREA
9
MITSURU HATTORI

Kurumiya Darin Arciento

An expert in zombie research who came to Japan from the southern islands to visit "Professor Boyle" (Grandpa). She has a strange passion for her research. Despite her looks, she's younger than Rea.

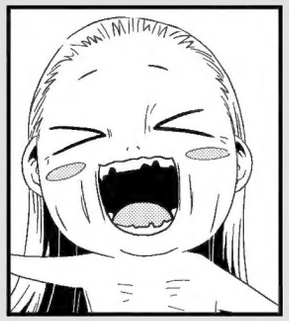
18

Darin's faithful pet. It's been zombified and half-mechanized.

THE FURUYA FAMILY

Dad

His real name is Furuya Dohn. He's the head priest at Shiryohji Temple. He agreed to Rea and Darin living in their home, saying only, "Should be fine, right?"



Grandpa

The most mysterious organism (?) of all in "Sankarea." Apparently he has studied zombies at an overseas research facility in the past...

Bub

He was hit by a car and died, but came back to life thanks to the elixir Chihiro and Rea made.

Furuya Mero

A reliable first-year middle school student, she manages all the housework for the Furuya family. She loves to read the Heart Sutra.

STORY

Having had a scalpel put to her brain, not only has Rea lost her memories of Chihiro and Darin, but she has even forgotten that she herself is a zombie. As a witness to everything that has happened to Rea, Darin realizes that Salva has no interest in saving Rea, so she attempts to take Rea to escape the island. Meanwhile, Chihiro, after evading a pack of zombies, meets up with Jogoroh, who has come to put a stop to the barbaric acts of ZoMA, and they hurry to find Rea. When they reach her in the subterranean passageways of ZoMA, they happen upon Rea at the very moment that Salva pushes her off the railing. Chihiro then reaches out his hand, and saves Rea by the skin of his teeth!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Furuya Chihiro

A first-year student at Shiyoh Public High School, he's an unusual boy who has loved zombies ever since he was small. He is currently trying all kinds of different things to protect Rea. He once became a half-zombie after Rea bit him.

Saohji Ranko

Chihiro's cousin and childhood friend, she's one year above him in school, and a second-year student at Sanka Girls'. She's a perky, energetic girl who is on the tennis team. Her nickname is "Wanko."

Sanka Rea

A first-year student at the private Sanka Girls' Academy, she's the daughter of a well-known family but fell to her death trying to escape her father. Afterwards, she returned to life as a zombie girl! She's currently living with the Furuya family.

MITSURU HATTORI presents

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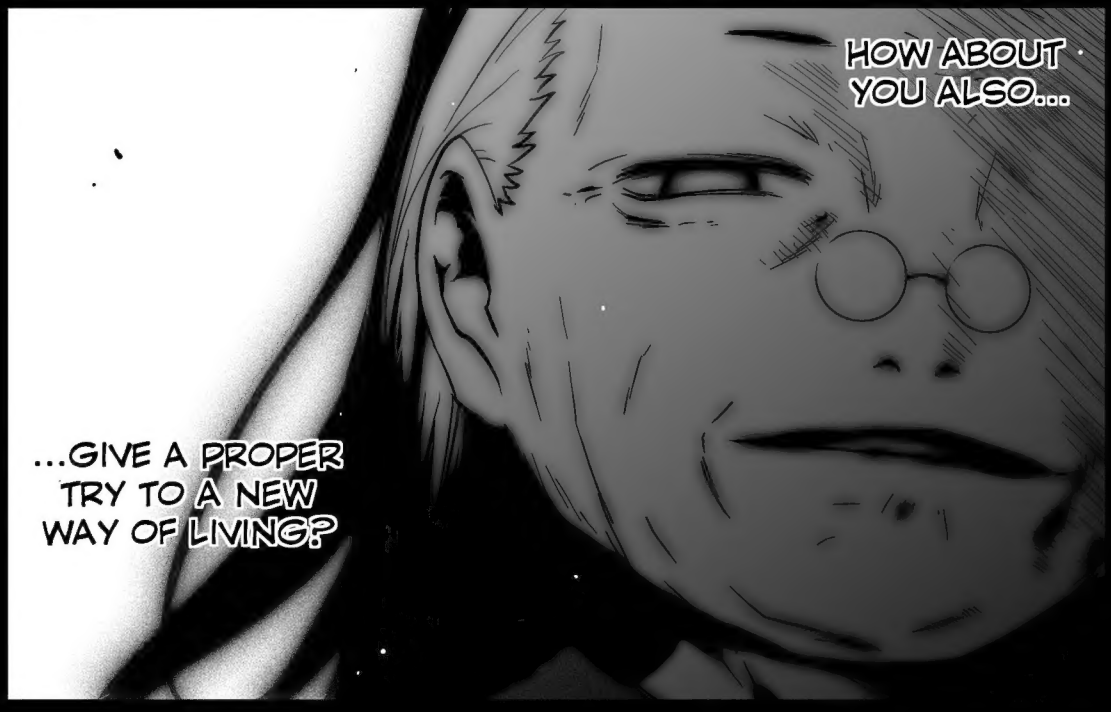

HOW ABOUT YOU ALSO...
...GIVE A PROPER TRY TO A NEW WAY OF LIVING?

PRO
...

41 FOOLISH... PERSON...

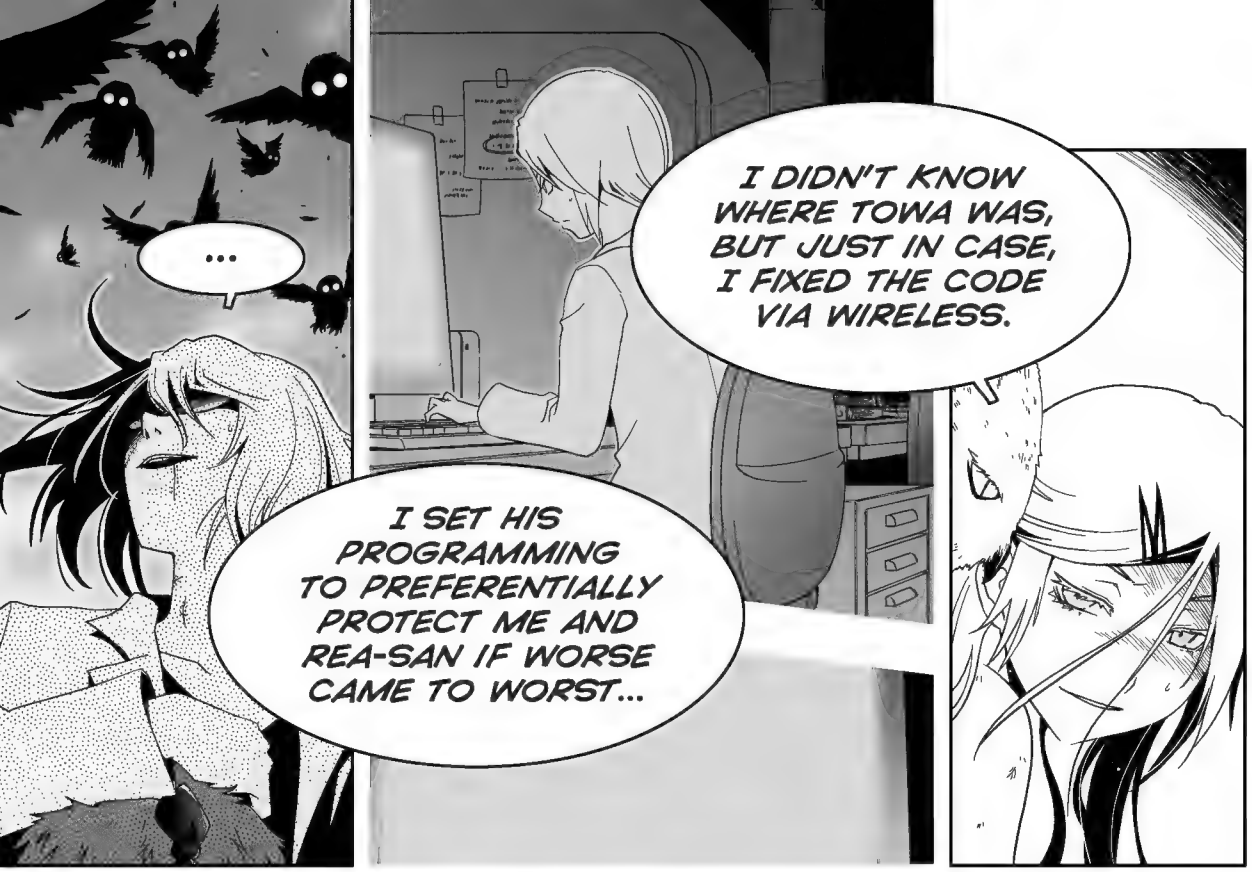
✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ EVILUTION ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

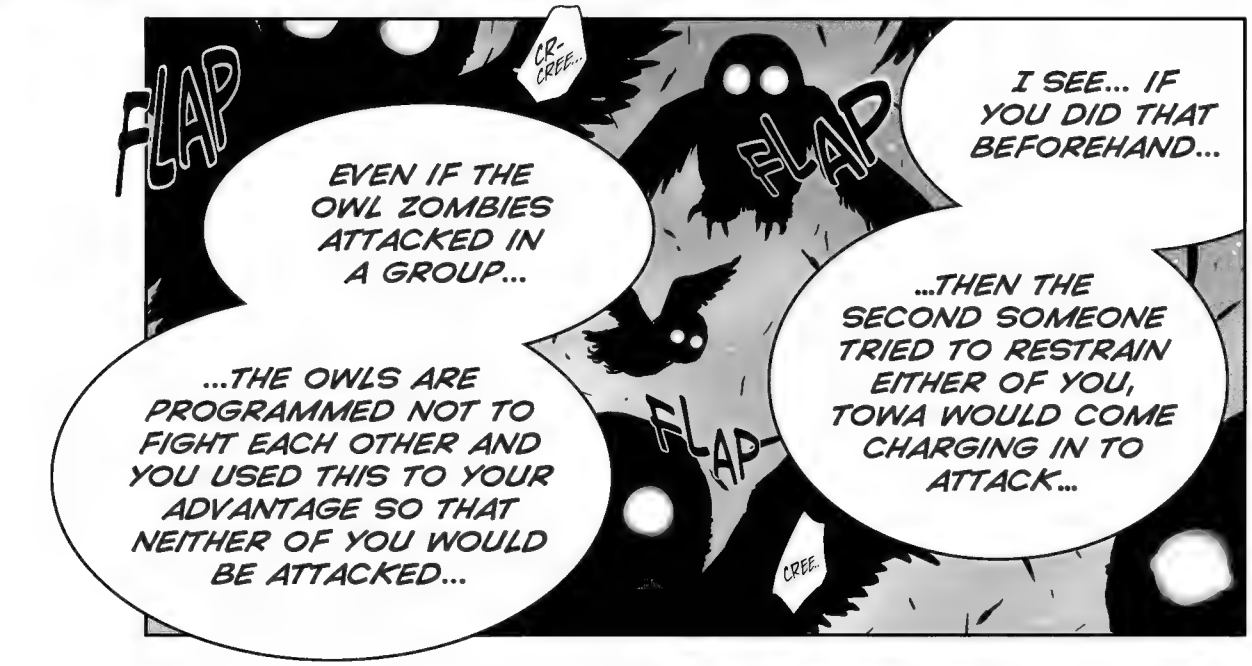
HOW UNFOR-TUNATE, PROFES-SOR BOYLE !!
GAAH
HA HA ...!
HA...
GYAH
PRO ...
...FES-SOR ...
slide...
...AND HAVE YOU CON-TRIBUTE TO THE FIELD OF "ZOMBIE MEDICAL ANTHRO-POLOGY" UNTIL THE VERY END.
I'LL KEEP YOUR REMAINS AS A PRE-CIOUS SAMPLE ...
CR-CREE
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK AT IT UNTIL WE CAN FINALLY COMPLETE THE ELIXIR ON OUR OWN.
THOUGH I HESITATE TO DO SO, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE USE OF THE BOY AND HAVE HIM HELP US PRODUCE THE REAN-IMATION ELIXIR.
CREE

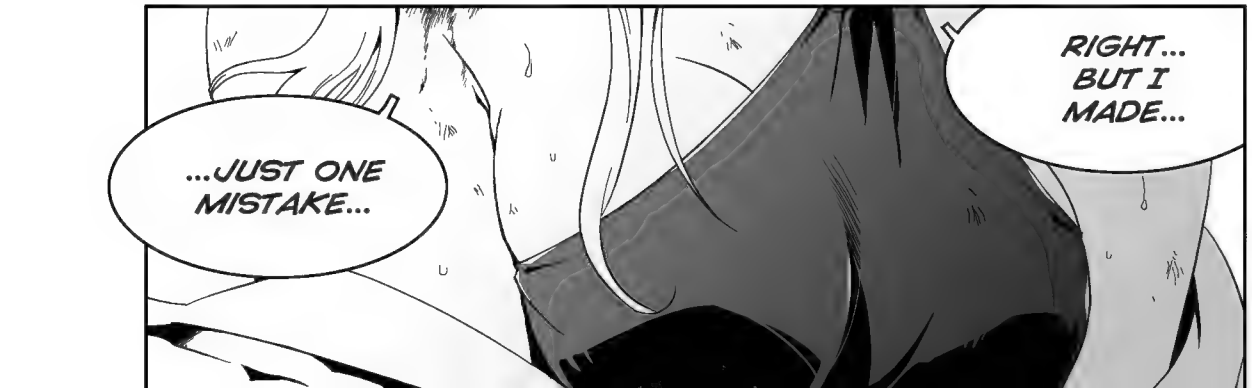
WOOSH
HAH!
SKR
KHRR...
I SEE! SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!
WELL THEN!
NHH...
DARIN, WHAT ARE YOU... DOING?
YOU TRYING TO... KILL YOURSELF... WITH... ME?!
GAHH

Fwoosh
THEN HAVE HIM SEE YOU TO YOUR END!!
YOUR FORMER FRIEND, TOWA...
...
WHAT?!
SKRSH!

FLAP
FLAPP
...WHY YOU LITTLE...
WHEN DID YOU HAVE THE TIME...? YOU REWROTE TOWA'S PROGRAM CODES, DIDN'T YOU...?!
COO...
...GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A SUCCESS...


...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TOWA WAS, BUT JUST IN CASE, I FIXED THE CODE VIA WIRELESS.
I SET HIS PROGRAMMING TO PREFERENTIALLY PROTECT ME AND REA-SAN IF WORSE CAME TO WORST...


FLAP
CR-CREE...
FLAP
FLAP-
CREE...
EVEN IF THE OWL ZOMBIES ATTACKED IN A GROUP...
...THE OWLS ARE PROGRAMMED NOT TO FIGHT EACH OTHER AND YOU USED THIS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE SO THAT NEITHER OF YOU WOULD BE ATTACKED...
I SEE... IF YOU DID THAT BEFOREHAND...
...THEN THE SECOND SOMEONE TRIED TO RESTRAIN EITHER OF YOU, TOWA WOULD COME CHARGING IN TO ATTACK...


...JUST ONE MISTAKE...
RIGHT... BUT I MADE...

...
TWITCH..
THAT WAS INDEED A MISTAKE...
...YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN TORN TO PIECES BY TOWA WHEN YOU SHOT ME BEFORE...
I SHOULD HAVE... ALTERED THEM SO THAT THEY COULD ATTACK... YOU, TOO...
IF I HAD DONE THAT...

PLEASE HANG IN THERE !!
PRO-FES-SOR !!
NH... KH...

GASP
...I DON'T MIND IF I AM NO LONGER ABLE TO MOVE MUCH.
EI-THER WAY ...
MY BODY WILL FACE ITS END HERE ON THIS LAND.
HUH?!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH LIFE AHEAD OF ME...
...BUT I RE-TURNED TO THIS PLACE... TO USE WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF MY LIFE AS *ATONE-MENT* ...
...

DOOMM
THAT BOY ...?!
YOU DON'T MEAN ...?!
GASP
VOOOOOOOOO
poke
HE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THIS.
CRAP !

RUSTLE
CLANG
HOW CAN I FIND THE REANIMATION ELIXIR WHEN THERE ARE THIS MANY SHELVES...?
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO GO FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER...
...WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?
MAKING ME DO ALL THIS WORK WITHOUT EVEN CONSIDERING MY FEELINGS...
UM...
HOLD ON A SEC. IT'LL BE JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
...HAVE I MET HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?

CLACK

THE SAME LABEL AS THE BOTTLE DARIN HAD BE-FORE ...
THIS MUST BE IT!
AHH, IT'S AL-READY TAKEN SO LONG TO FIND IT, GUESS I'LL HAVE TO JUST GET RID OF IT HERE.

!!
CREE

SKRHH
CLATTERR

glide
SQUISH

...AND UNLIKE THE LIQUID I MADE, THESE ARE IN CAPSULES FOR LONG-TERM STORAGE.
HE TOLD ME TO REMOVE IT AND DESTROY IT OUTSIDE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BUT THERE'S NO TIME LEFT...
GNOOP

SOAK THE MEDICINE IN JUST A LITTLE BIT OF OIL AND ...
IF IT'S A REALLY WEAK BURN, THEN THE SMOKE DETECTOR WON'T GO OFF, I THINK ...
WOSHAAAA
FOOM
...
BRRNN...
JUST FOR NOW... CAN'T...
CAN'T YOU JUST TRUST ME...?
BURN
BRRNN
BURN

THUNK
CLACK
HEY!
TWITCH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE MEDICINE STORAGE ROOM?!
AH!
SCURRY
CRAP !!
CLANG
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!
FWOOSHUH
CLATTER
?!
WHOA!!

BEEEEP
AN EXPLOSION HAS OCCURRED IN THE MEDICINE STORAGE ROOM.
ZONE D-2 WILL BE TEMPORARILY LOCKED DOWN.
...KH.
BEEEEEEP
!!!
BEEEEEEP
HA HA ...
HE PULLED IT OFF WITH FLAIR...
WHY...
...YOU...!!
WOOSH

hff
hff
BUFFHH...
BU... HH
HOW DARE YOU...?
HOW DARE YOU...?!
BUUHH...
hff
hff
BUUH... UHH...
NFHH?
NHH...

BACHO

RO... SALIE!!
TSCHHH
SHORT
GRAB
Y...
YOU...
...DAMNED CAT...!
CRRT

glide...
I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS!!
...THAT CAT HAS COMPLETELY FALLEN INTO THE TURBID PERIOD...!!
GRAH
NGH...
AAAHH
AAAHHHH!

CLOP
WHERE ARE YOU...? ROSAL... IE....
CLOP
WOBBL...
A-AHH!!
CRACK
PHEWW...
MY... EYES...!!
AAHH...
SLIPP
GAHH...
ROSA... LIE...
NHAA..
ROSA...
SLP...

PHEW!
YAHAA!
THUD
HUH...?

DDDDOOOOMM
...RIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END...
...HE WAS SUCH A...

...
YES...
HE WAS A FOOLISH... PERSON...
DDDOOOOOMMM

SANKAREA

chee
chee
chee

HE-
YA.
SKHH

SKHH
SKH

I'M HOME.

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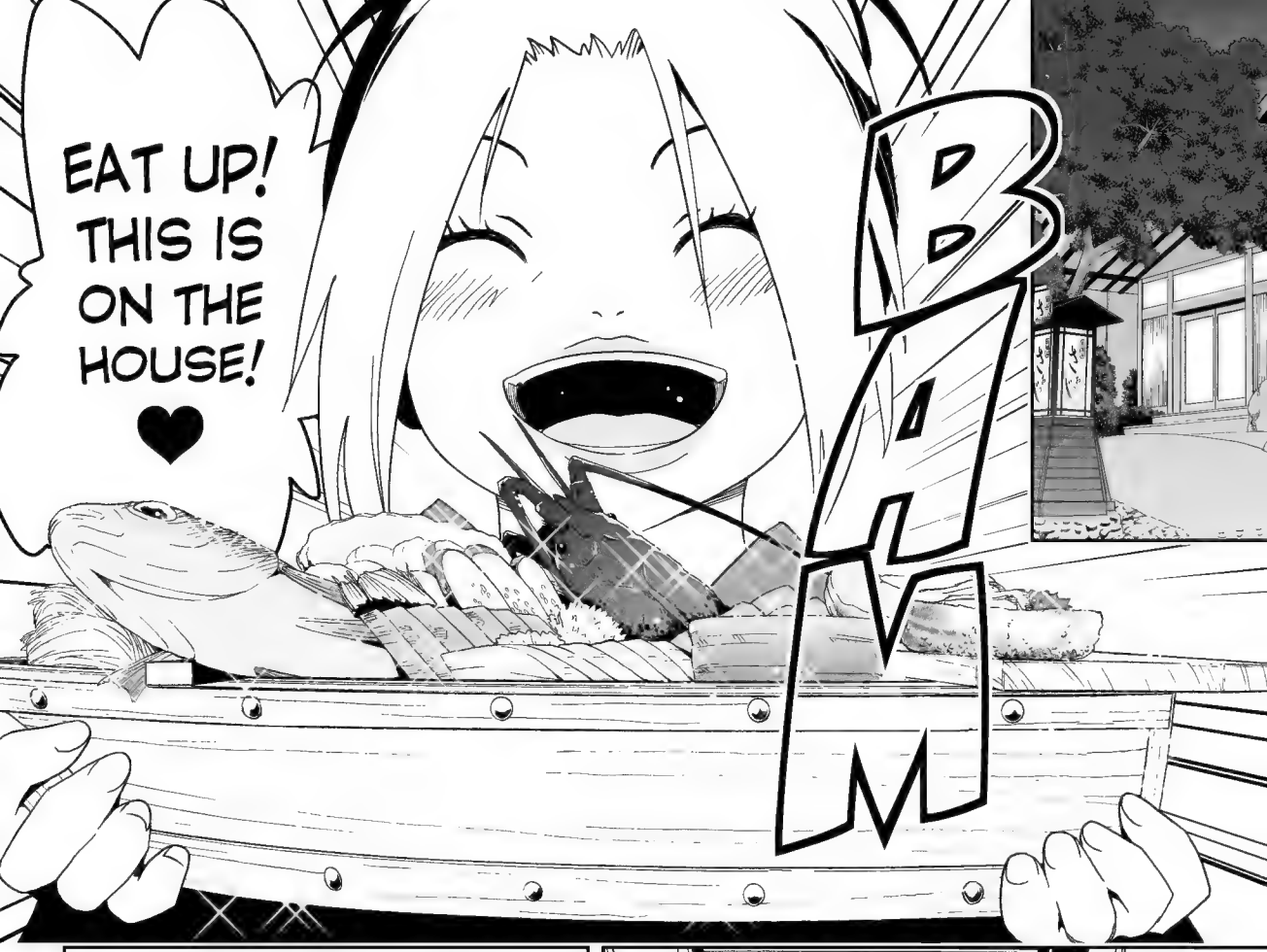
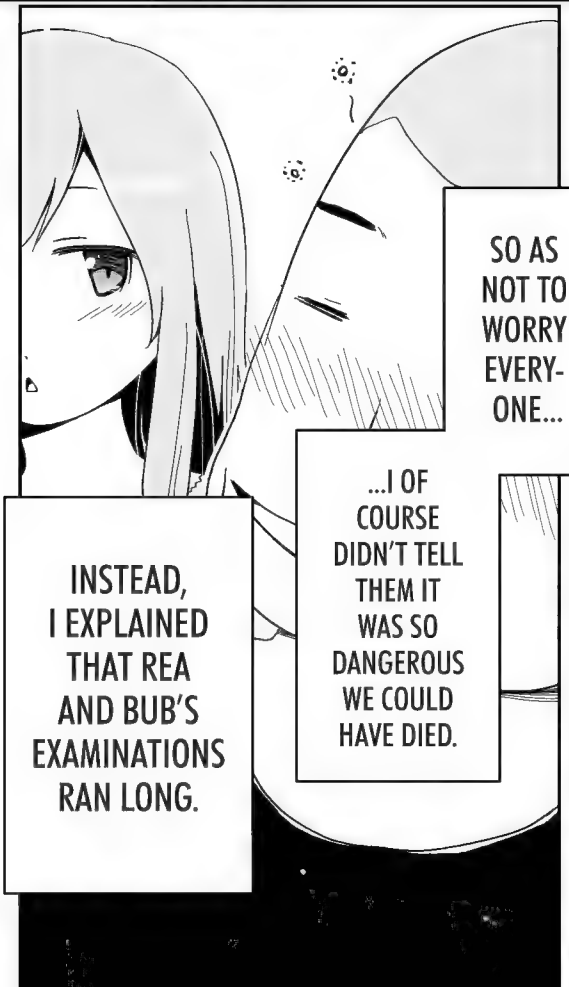
A PLACE... FOR ME TO BE...

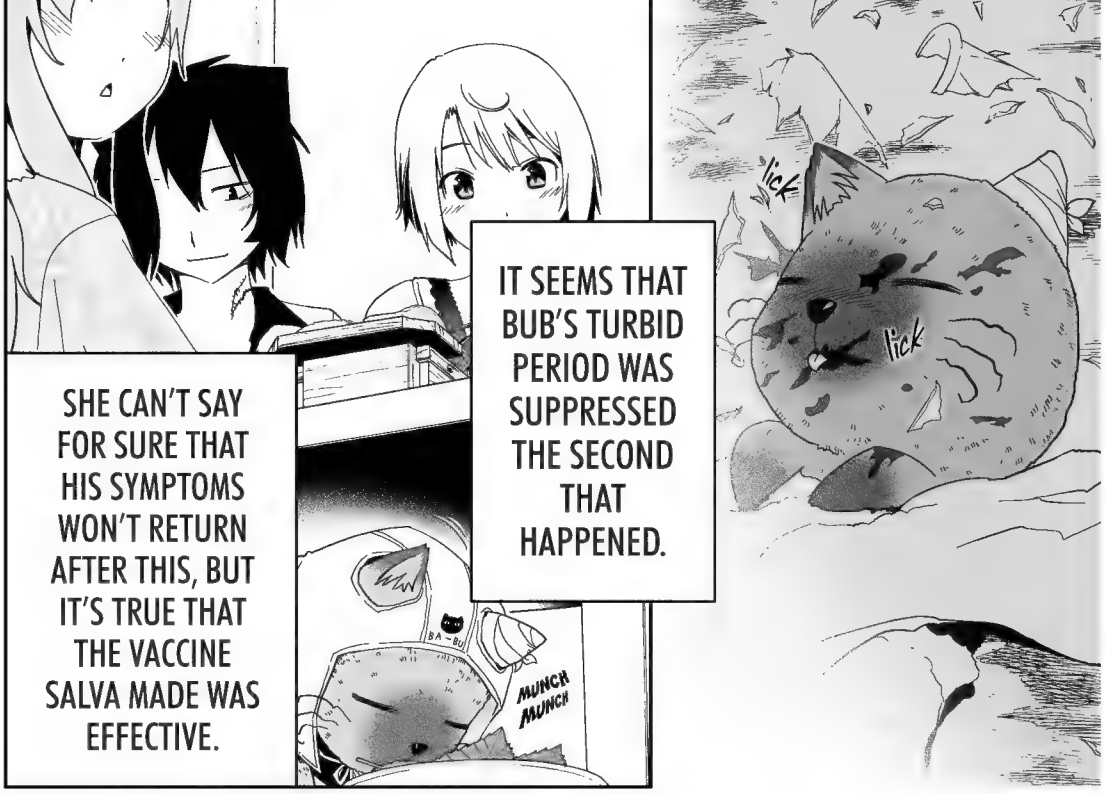
RESIDENT EVIL


EAT UP! THIS IS ON THE HOUSE!
BAM


INSTEAD, I EXPLAINED THAT REA AND BUB'S EXAMINATIONS RAN LONG.
...I OF COURSE DIDN'T TELL THEM IT WAS SO DANGEROUS WE COULD HAVE DIED.
SO AS NOT TO WORRY EVERY-ONE...

WE RETURNED TO JAPAN THIS MORNING.
Wait, Mom, you're making too big of a deal out of this.
It's fine. Don't worry.
Ooh

MUNCH
MUNCH
BA~BU
WITH THAT COAT, YOU'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO HIDE THE WOUNDS COVERING YOUR BODY.
ACCORDING TO DARIN, WHEN BUB ATTACKED SALVA...
...HE APPARENTLY GOT INOCULATED BY BEING DRENCHED IN THE VACCINE THAT SALVA HAPPENED TO BE HOLDING.
nbuhh...
hnff
hnff
hnff
CRACKK


SHE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE THAT HIS SYMPTOMS WON'T RETURN AFTER THIS, BUT IT'S TRUE THAT THE VACCINE SALVA MADE WAS EFFECTIVE.
IT SEEMS THAT BUB'S TURBID PERIOD WAS SUPPRESSED THE SECOND THAT HAPPENED.
BA-BU
MUNCH MUNCH
lick
lick

AH, YEAH.
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, FOR HIM TO ANNOUNCE HE'S GOING TO LIVE ON THE ISLAND FOR A WHILE...
Weee
EVEN SO, IT'S A BIT STRANGE FOR GRANDPA TO HAVE GONE CHASING AFTER YOU TO THE ISLAND...

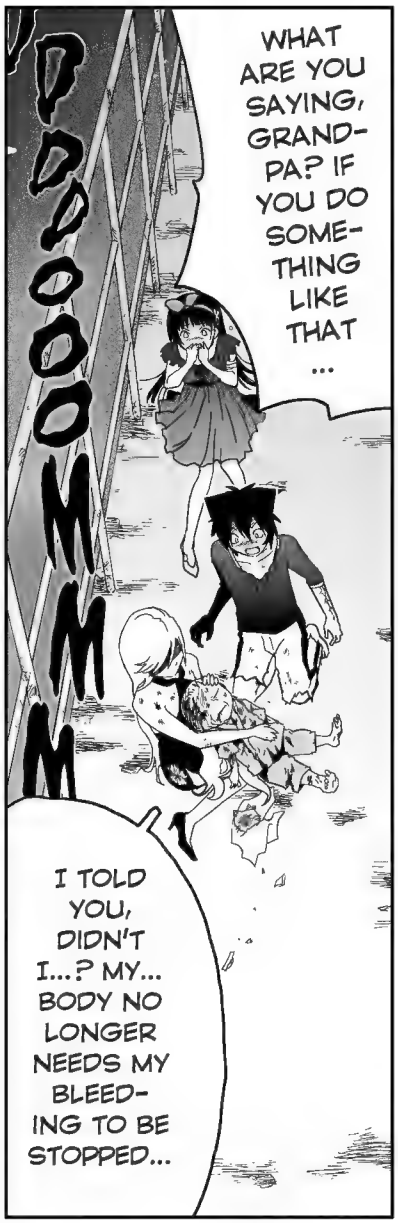
UMM, GRANDPA HAD ORIGINALLY LIVED ON THE ISLAND BEFORE AND SINCE IT'D BEEN A WHILE FOR HIM TO BE THERE, HE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A LONG STAY OF IT...
RIGHT, RIGHT... WHY IS THAT? DID THE OLD MAN HAVE SOME KIND OF CONNECTION TO DARIN-CHAN'S RESEARCH FACILITY?

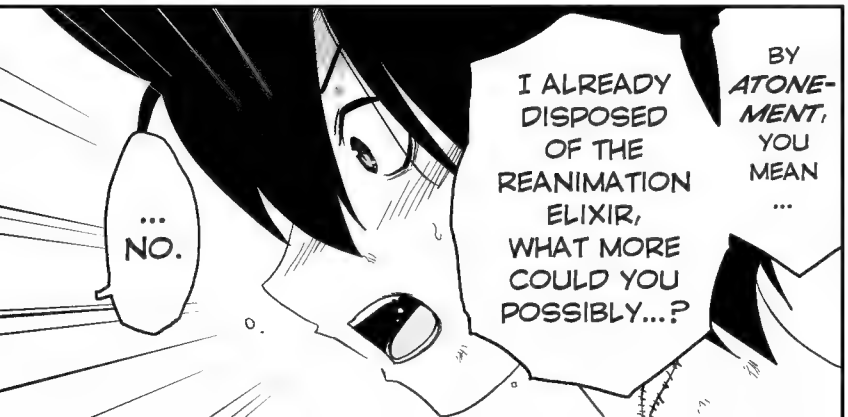
HE REALLY IS A FREE-SPIRITED OLD MAN, ISN'T HE...
THAT'S SOMETHING WE'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME.
I JUST HOPE HE TAKES CARE OF HIMSELF ...
THAT'S TRUE. WELL, HE DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE TO OVERDO IT, THOUGH.
...PA.
GRA-ND-PA.
GRAND-PA, ARE YOU OKAY?!
IS THAT ...CHI-HIRO ...?

HE'S NO LONGER HERE...
IT'S ALL... OVER...
GASP
YEAH! IT GOT A LITTLE CRAZY, THOUGH.
YOU... DIS-POSED OF IT, DIDN'T YOU ...?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOSE WOUNDS... DON'T TELL ME THAT SALVA... ER, WHERE IS HE?!
?!
P... PROFESSOR BOYLE?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WH... WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
FREEZE!!
GAH, CRAP ...!!

DDDOOOMMM
I'M ...
... STAY-ING HERE ...
WE'LL DISCUSS THE CIRCUMSTANCES LATER!! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, SO WE'LL HAVE THE NEXT CARGO PLANE TAKE US AND THE PROFESSOR TO A HOSPITAL ON THE MAINLAND!!

MY PAIN RECEPTORS ARE DULLED AS WELL, SO JUST RECEIVING BASIC FIRST AID HERE ON THE ISLAND WILL BE ENOUGH...
ON TOP OF THAT... THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF THE *ATONEMENT* I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF HERE.


DDDOOOMMM
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GRAND-PA? IF YOU DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT ...
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I...? MY... BODY NO LONGER NEEDS MY BLEED-ING TO BE STOPPED...


... NO.
I ALREADY DISPOSED OF THE REANIMATION ELIXIR, WHAT MORE COULD YOU POSSIBLY...?
BY *ATONE-MENT*, YOU MEAN ...

THERE'S STILL ELIXIR LEFT OVER...
PLEASE ...
UNTIL THEN... CAN'T YOU LET ME STAY HERE ...?
...AND BURY THEM PROPERLY, MY ATONE-MENT WILL NOT END...
UNTIL I SEE ALL OF THEM TO THEIR ENDS ...
INSIDE THE BODIES OF THE REANIMATED WANDERING AROUND THIS FACILITY, THAT IS...

STAND...
WAI...
YOU'RE ... JUST GOING TO LEAVE HIM?!
...
I GET IT, GRAND-PA...
YOU'LL... LEAVE THE ISLAND... AND FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE...
BUT THAT'S ...
I'M STILL A JUNIOR RE-SEARCH-ER...!
THEN, PRO-FESSOR, I'LL STAY, TOO!!
YOU ... MUST NOT.
ON TOP OF THAT... NOW THAT I'VE LOST MY FATHER ...
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE LEFT TO COUNT ON, PROFESSOR...

LET'S GO.

BUT... GRAND-PA IS SPEAKING WITH SO MUCH RESOLVE.
LET'S GIVE HIM THAT RESPECT ...

IT'S TRUE THAT YOU MIGHT BE UNABLE TO GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER RIGHT NOW...
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME, TOO...

...
THAT'S TRUE... YOU HAVE A POINT.

WOOSH

EVEN THOUGH THE PAINKILLER THE PROFESSOR GAVE ME IS WORKING FOR NOW...
...MY INJURIES STILL NEEDS TO BE TREATED AT A HOSPITAL.
WE CAN'T LEAVE REA-SAN ALONE EITHER...

BUT... IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I'M LISTENING TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
THIS IS ULTI-MATELY... MY OWN DECI-SION, AFTER ALL!

HUH?!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH IT IS...
YES IT DOES, AS FAR AS MY PRIDE GOES!
heh...

I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT...
LET ME TAKE MY TIME... AND HAVE THAT DISCUSSION WITH YOU... WHEN I RETURN TO JAPAN...
CHI-HI-RO ...

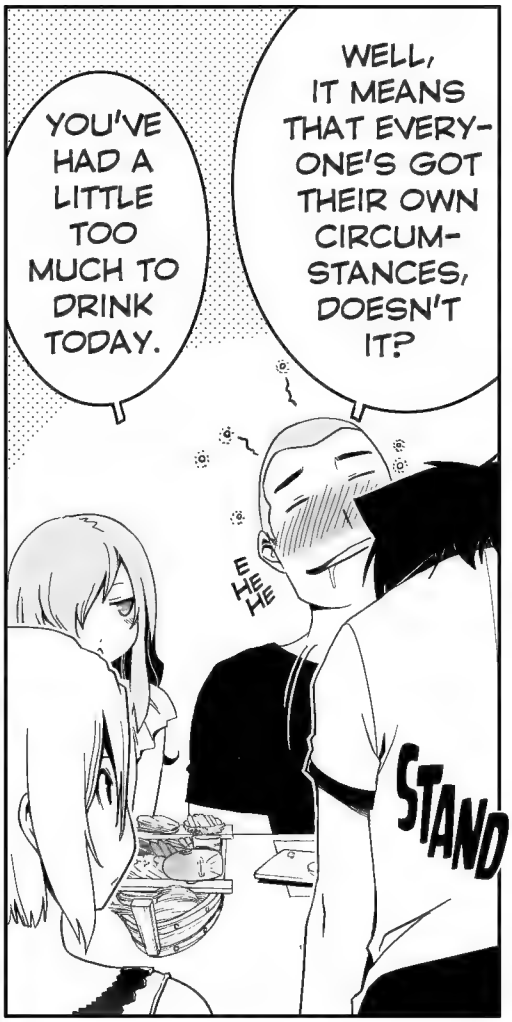
... YEAH.

AHAHAHA

DARIN-DONO FINISHED HER HOME-STAY, TOO.
BUT IT GOT LONELY AROUND HERE ALL AT ONCE.
Didn't it, Bub?
AND EVEN REA-DONO WENT BACK TO HER FAMILY HOME...
WELL ...
HMM ?
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING WHILE YOU WERE ON THE ISLAND?
... SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

THAT OLD MAN OF HERS IS AWAY FROM THE HOUSE FOR NOW...
I WONDER IF IT ISN'T A LITTLE EASIER FOR HER TO BE THERE THAN IT USED TO BE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
glide
HM? THE BATH-ROOM.


WELL, IT MEANS THAT EVERY-ONE'S GOT THEIR OWN CIRCUM-STANCES, DOESN'T IT?
YOU'VE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK TODAY.
EHEHE
STAND

...
MEMORY
LOSS
?!
WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN?!
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
TO
REA'S
HEAD
?!

Do you feel a little better?
Nnuhhh
AND NOW, THE FACT THAT SHE IS A ZOMBIE ...
...HER RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME...
...THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS UP UNTIL THIS POINT...
...ALL SEEM TO HAVE BECOME RATHER UNCLEAR TO HER.

BUT... SHE REMEMBERS BUB, DOESN'T SHE?
BUT JUST HIS NAME. SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANY DETAILS ABOUT HIM.

THEN...
BUT THAT'S ...

hmph
AFTER THIS... REA WILL...
IN PARTICULAR, IT SEEMS LIKE HER MEMORIES REGARDING YOU HAVE BEEN WIPED CLEAN FROM HER HEAD, DOESN'T IT?
TO GO FURTHER, IT SEEMS THAT HER SECOND FIRST IMPRESSION OF YOU WASN'T VERY GOOD, EITHER...
T... THAT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT? I DIDN'T REALIZE REA HAD BECOME LIKE THAT, EITHER...!!
WELL, IT'S BETTER IF YOU KEEP A LITTLE DISTANCE FROM HER FOR A WHILE.
LIKE HELL IT IS!

BUT... THERE MIGHT BE SOME DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF PRESERVING HER BODY, RIGHT?!
JUST BECAUSE PART OF HER BRAIN IS STILL ALIVE DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE CELLS OF HER ENTIRE BODY WILL COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN...
Huh, the chief did?!
Impossible...
SALVA TOLD YOU THIS TOO, RIGHT?
ALL KINDS OF TERRIBLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE WE CAME HERE TO ZOMA, BUT WE FOUND OUT THAT REA STILL HAS "POTENTIAL" !!
THAT'S WHY HE AND I TRIED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TOGETHER ...
Professor Boyle's here, you say?!
YOU SAID THAT ZOMBIES NORMALLY DECAY IN THREE MONTHS ...
...BUT IN REA'S SITUATION, IT COULD BE SEVERAL YEARS... NO, THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO PRESERVE HER FOR SEVERAL DOZEN YEARS...!
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER REA SINCE WE FIRST MET...
OH!

TAP TAPP
W... WHAT IS IT ...?
LOOK AT THIS! HERE!
REA!!
T... THAT'S RIGHT!
I BROUGHT IT WITH ME!!
WOOSH
She's currently eating hydrangeas.
Her thighs and the bottoms of her feet...
...are all clear.
IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS YOU'LL REMEMBER OUR RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?!
HUUHH?! NO, YOU'RE WRONG!!
SHRINK...
NO WAY... YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON ME...?!
WH...?! WHAT IS THIS VIDEO?!

T... THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE! HOW COULD WE BE L... L... LIVING TOGETHER AT THIS AGE...?
LIKE I SAID, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
Look, I've got other videos, too!!
YOU AND I LIVE TOGETH-ER, DON'T WE...?!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU DOING SOME-THING LIKE THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN WILL JUST HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT, DIDN'T I?
DARIN, YOU GIVE HER YOUR TESTI-MONY, TOO!
NHHAAAA

AFTER YOU RETURN TO JAPAN, IT'S BEST TO LET HER DO WHAT SHE WANTS FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
UNHH...

GIVE IT A REST ALREADY! PLEASE STOP HANGING AROUND ME!!
OH, WELL THEN, HAVE A LOOK AT THE WOUND ON MY ARM.
THIS IS FROM WHEN YOU TRIED TO EAT ME...
Oh dear...
NOOOO, WHAT IS THIS PERSON SAYING TO ME...?!

STAAARRRE
...
She's clearly looking at me like I'm a suspicious person...
SO UNTIL THEN, JUST DO HER A FAVOR AND LET HER BE.
IF YOU DO THAT, SHE'LL START TO REALIZE ON HER OWN THAT SOME-THING'S OUT OF PLACE.

CLICK

GRIP...
I SCREWED UP, HUH...
DAM-MIT ...

SHABE
SO ...
...TELL ME...
...THE TRUTH ...

HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR US TO TELL ARIA-SAMA, AFTER ALL.
BUT ...
...SHE HASN'T COME BACK TO THE ESTATE SINCE THIS MORNING.
SHE'S ON HER COURSE WHERE SHE GOES DIRECTLY TO THE CLUB AFTER HER WORK AS CHAIRWOMAN AND WON'T RETURN UNTIL MORNING.
"I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME WHEN I'M OUT OF THE HOUSE, DIDN'T I?!"
GRRRR
...THAT'S HOW WE'LL END UP GETTING YELLED AT.
THAT'S TRUE ...
EVEN SO, I WON-DER WHY ...
...SHE'S SUD-DENLY RETURNED ...?

HOOT
HOOOT

...
THIS IS MY HOME... ISN'T IT...?

BUT... IT SEEMS LIKE NONE OF MY CLOTHES ARE HERE...
MUNCH
MUNCH
...ON TOP OF THAT, I FEEL ODDLY CON-STRAINED ...

I TOTALLY THOUGHT BUB-CHAN WAS MY PET CAT, THOUGH...
Poor Bub-chan...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BELONGS TO THAT GUY WITH THE WEIRD HAIRCUT...
HOOT
HOOT
... WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY... DO I FEEL LIKE SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT ?
ANYWAY, EVEN IF SHE COMES HOME TOMORROW MORNING, LET'S GO WITH NOT TELLING HER.
THAT'S RIGHT. NO NEED TO GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO DO SUCH A FRUSTRATING THING RIGHT BEFORE GETTING OFF OUR NIGHT SHIFT...
UM ...
OH, YES ?!
TWITCH
WH... WHAT HAP-PENED ?
I'D LIKE TO CHANGE, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE MY CLOTHES ARE.
IT SEEMS LIKE I FORGOT ALL KINDS OF THINGS WHILE I WAS HOSPITAL-IZED OVER ON THAT ISLAND...

ALSO, I... WAS ATTEND-ING HIGH SCHOOL, WASN'T I...?
HOS-PITA-LIZED?
WHY IN QUES-TION-FORM?
SO I'M LOOKING FOR MY SCHOOL UNIFORM, TOO...
AH, AS FAR AS YOUR CLOTHING GOES, DID YOU NOT HAVE MOST OF IT SENT TO HIS HOUSE?
CLACK
...HIS?
HEY-YY...
TWITCH
SOME-ONE PLEASE BRING ME WATER...
SHE'S AL-READY HOME!!
ARIA-SAMA?! NO WAY!
FLUTTER FLUTTER
TAP TAP
R... REA-SAMA, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOM!!
WE'LL STOP BY AFTER-WARD!!
...
ARIA.
STARE
...THAT PERSON, SHE'S DEFINITE-LY...

THWAP
DRUNK
DRUNK
DAMMIT !! WHAT'S WITH THAT NEW HOST ?!
I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO SEDUCE HIM, AND HE'S ALL LIKE, "YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE..." ?!!
HMPH
A... ARIA-SAMA, WEL-COME HOME ...
PHEWWW...
NHA ?
GULPP
HERE IS YOUR WA-TER.
Whoa, she's really pissed.

SHOVE
N, NO ONE ...!
JUST ONE OF OUR EM-PLOY-EES.
WAH !
SHOVE

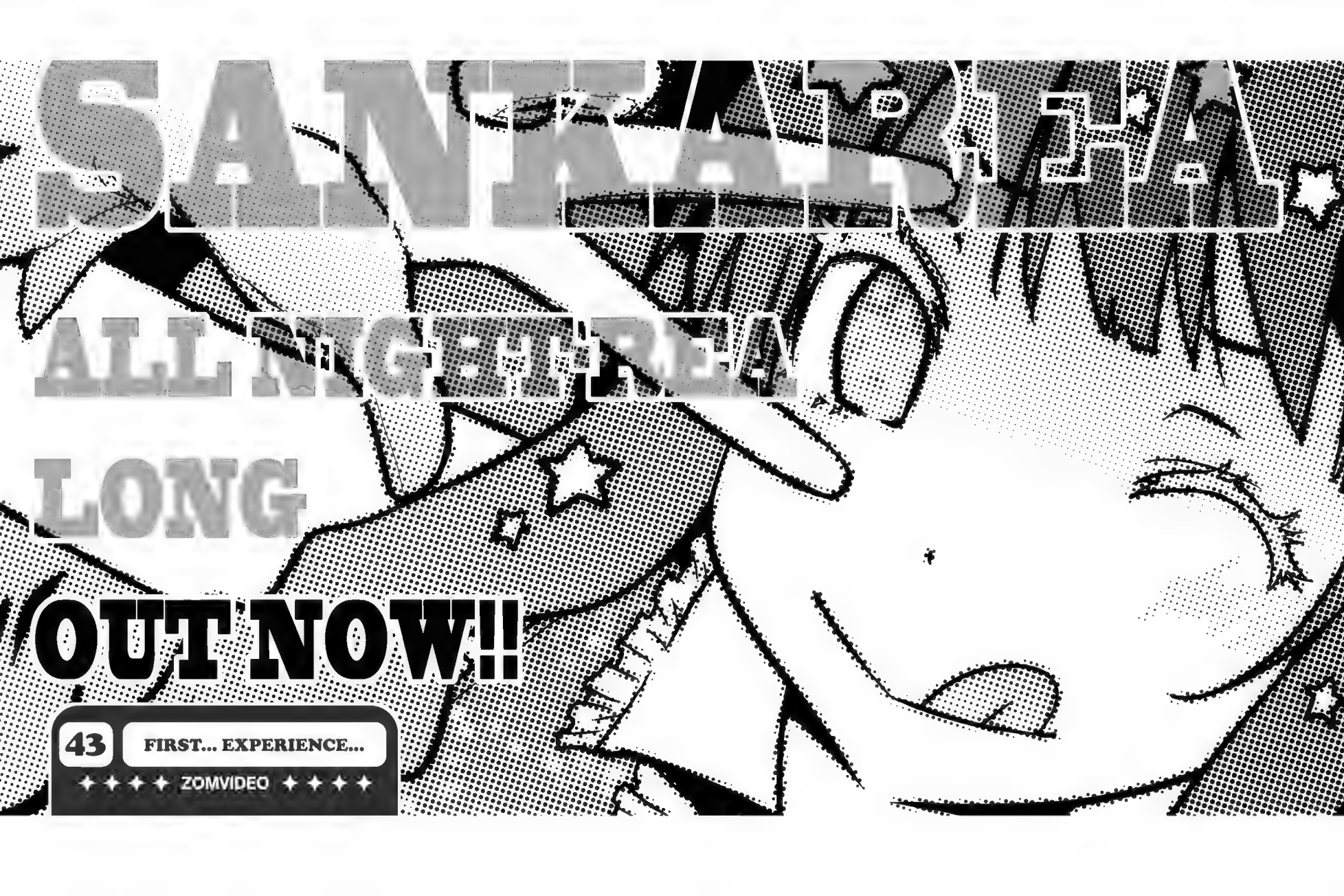
WHO'S THAT OVER THERE ?
crap!

AHH, YOU KNOW, HIMURO THE MAID JUST DYED HER HAIR BLACK !!
slide slide ..
HNN ?
WAS THERE A GIRL WITH BLACK HAIR LIKE THAT WORKING HERE?

AHH, YOU CAN'T! NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME !!
SHOVE
SHOVE
HUH...? THAT PERSON JUST NOW WAS MY MOTHER, WASN'T SHE?
I SHOULD GREET HER...

REA-SAMA... LET'S SPEND TONIGHT IN THE ROOM FURTHEST AWAY FROM HERE!!
I'LL PREPARE SOME CLOTHING FOR YOU, TOO!!
SOME-THING IS STRANGE... AFTER ALL.
SO THEN ...
WHERE ON EARTH ...
...IS THE PLACE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ...?!
UM... WHY DO I HAVE TO DRESS LIKE THIS ...?
OH MY, IT REAA-AALLY SUITS YOU!
SOOOO CUUUTE!

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH


SANKARE
ALL NIGHT LONG
OUT NOW!!
43
FIRST... EXPERIENCE...
ZOMVIDEO

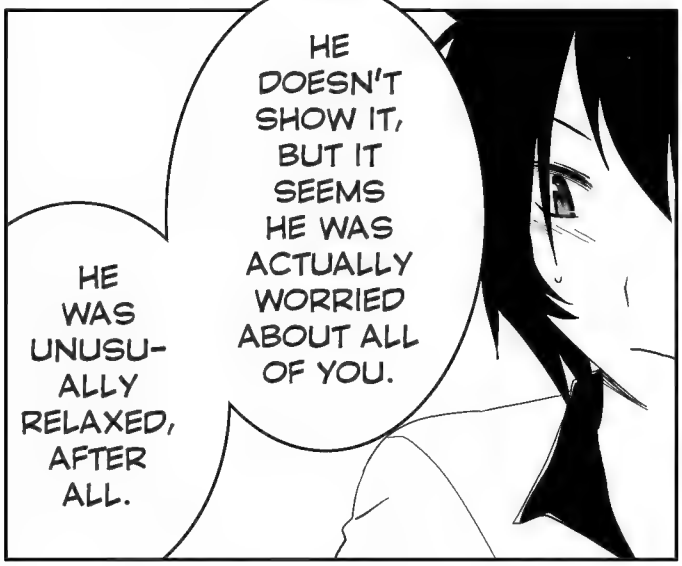
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ISLAND...
...

RIGHT NOW SHE THINKS OF ME LIKE I'M A PEEPING TOM, SO...
AND THAT'S HOW REA-CHAN ENDED UP WITH AMNESIA ...

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WILL GET HER MEMORIES BACK...
DARIN SAID TO LEAVE HER ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

IT'S TRUE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO CONTROL BUB'S TURBID PERIOD AS A RESULT OF GOING TO ZOMA...
...AND WE LEARNED ABOUT REA'S CONDITION THROUGH A DETAILED EXAMINATION, SO THERE WERE LOTS OF PLUSES...
BUT SOME-HOW... BESIDES THAT...
...THERE WERE JUST A LOT OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED ...
Ahahaha, so you really do like it up here, don't you?
hmf
hmf
Oh my...
A LOT OF THINGS ?
WELL... ALL KINDS OF THINGS ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALL KINDS OF THINGS ...? Just tell me already!
TICKLE
TICKLE
A-ANYWAY, RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT REA...!!

I thought it was taking a long time...
OH MY, SO THIS IS WHERE THE TWO OF YOU WERE.
THAT'S TRUE, SPEAKING SERIOUSLY...
HMM ...


HE WAS UNUSUALLY RELAXED, AFTER ALL.
HE DOESN'T SHOW IT, BUT IT SEEMS HE WAS ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ALL OF YOU.

IS DAD OKAY?
HE PASSED OUT DRUNK AND IS NOW IN DREAMLAND.

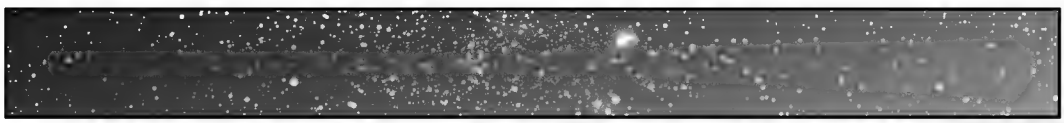
HM... NOTHING ...
ER... WHAT IS IT, MERO?!

STARE...
...

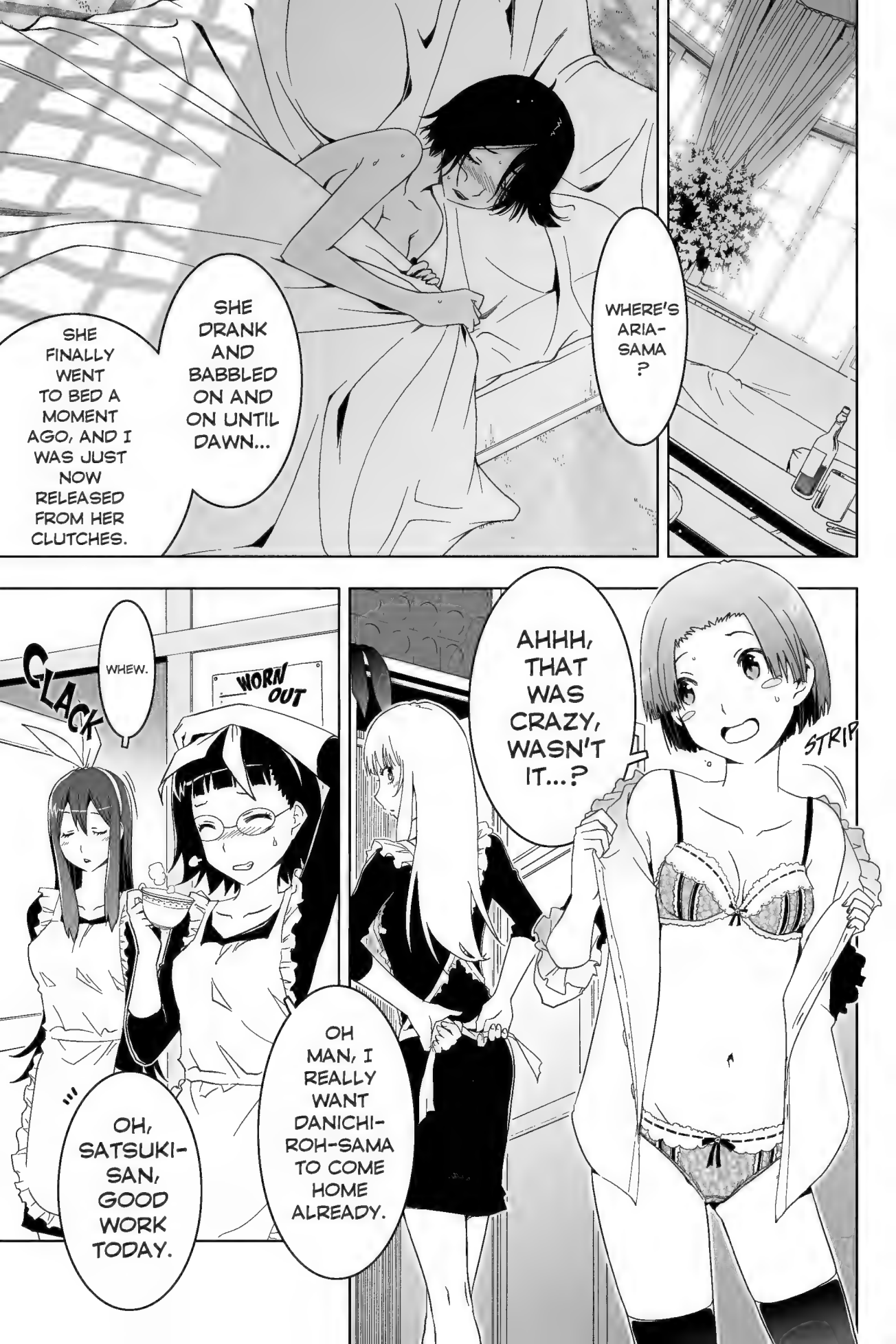
BA-BU
buuhhhbu
IT JUST SEEMS LIKE YOUR FACIAL FEATURES HAVE BECOME MORE DIGNIFIED...
...SINCE YOU RETURNED FROM THE ISLAND.
OH JEEZ, MERO-CHAA-AAN...
GRAB!!
COME ON, YOU REALLY JUST WANTED TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR BROTHER'S FACE, SINCE HE JUST CAME BACK...
THERE YOU GO, SAYING SOME-THING SO DRA-MATIC...
NO, THAT'S NOT REAL-LY THE CASE...
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
...GASP.

SHINE
I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!!
HUH?

IF WE DO THIS NOW, THEN REA-CHAN WILL... mutter mutter...
SNHRRR
HUH?!
IS IT OKAY FOR US TO DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT...?!
WITH THAT, YOU'LL RID YOURSELF OF THE FALSE ACCUSATION OF BEING A PEEPING TOM, AND I'M TELLING YOU, IT WILL DEFINITELY WORK!! MERO-CHAN, YOU HELP US, TOO!!
... OKAY.

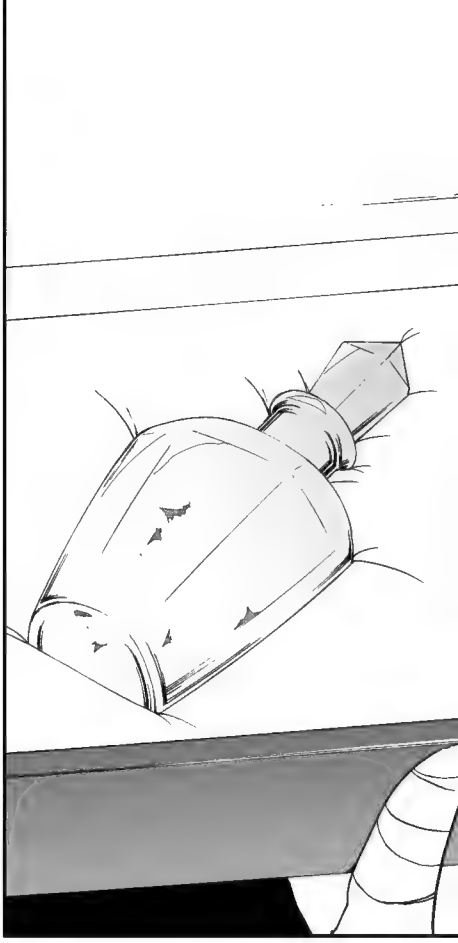


chee chee...


WHERE'S ARIA-SAMA?
SHE DRANK AND BABBLED ON AND ON UNTIL DAWN...
SHE FINALLY WENT TO BED A MOMENT AGO, AND I WAS JUST NOW RELEASED FROM HER CLUTCHES.
AHHH, THAT WAS CRAZY, WASN'T IT...?
STRIP
OH MAN, I REALLY WANT DANICHI-ROH-SAMA TO COME HOME ALREADY.
CLACK
WHEW.
WORN OUT
!!!
OH, SATSUKI-SAN, GOOD WORK TODAY.

BLUSH
I JUST OVERHEARD YOU SAYING THAT REA-SAMA HAS RETURNED TO THE ESTATE...
OH MY, I TOOK ADVAN-TAGE OF ALL THE CONFU-SION AND INDULGED MYSELF TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
BLUSH
FLUTTER FLUTTER
HM? A VISITOR THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING? I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE?
OH... I'LL GO SEE.
CLANG CLONGG
REA-SAMA REALLY DOES LOOK GOOD NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE HER WEAR, AFTER ALL...
How lucky...
SO HAS SATSUKI-SAN'S HOBBY OF PLAYING DRESS-UP EXPLODED AGAIN?
SMOOSH
SIGH ...

ON TOP OF THAT, I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL SINCE I WAS ON THE ISLAND...
AH ...!
SQU-SQUISHH
THIS... IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY HOUSE BUT... I FEEL LIKE SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT, AFTER ALL...
THEY HAD MADE ME DRESS IN WEIRD COSTUMES ALL NIGHT...
I WONDER IF I COULD BE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING TO SLEEP BECAUSE I'M EATING THESE...
Maybe there's caffeine in it or something ...?
DARIN TOLD ME TO INGEST IT FREQUENTLY BECAUSE IT'S MEDICINE, THOUGH...
PERHAPS I SHOULD TRY CUTTING BACK JUST A LITTLE...
CLATTER
KA-CLACK
...?



HUH...
CLICK...
UM... SOME SCHOOL FRIENDS HAVE COME TO SEE YOU...

KNOCK KNOCK
REA-SAMA.
SLAM

HUH... WHA...?!
GOOD MORN-ING, REA-CHAN!!
WE CAME TO GET YOU.
POKE
UM... THE TWO OF YOU ARE, I'M SURE...
DON'T BE SILLY NOW!
WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL, AND I'M YOUR MANAGER, RANKO, RIGHT?! AND SHE'S PART OF YOUR STAFF, MERO-CHAN.
M... MANA-GER...?!
NOD

M... MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, WHY ON EARTH WOULD I HAVE A MANAGER AND STAFF...?
HUUHH? DID YOU FORGET WHILE YOU WERE HOSPITAL-IZED?
OH... ONE OF THE MAIDS FORCED ME TO WEAR THIS...
BY THE WAY, THAT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU HAVE ON THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.
HERE YA GO! IT'S YOUR SCHOOL UNI-FORM.
YOU ARE... THAT'S RIGHT!!
BA-
DUM
HUH ...?!
YOU'RE A LOCAL IDOL THAT WE DELIVER FROM SHIYOH TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY, RIGHT OVER THE INTERNET !!

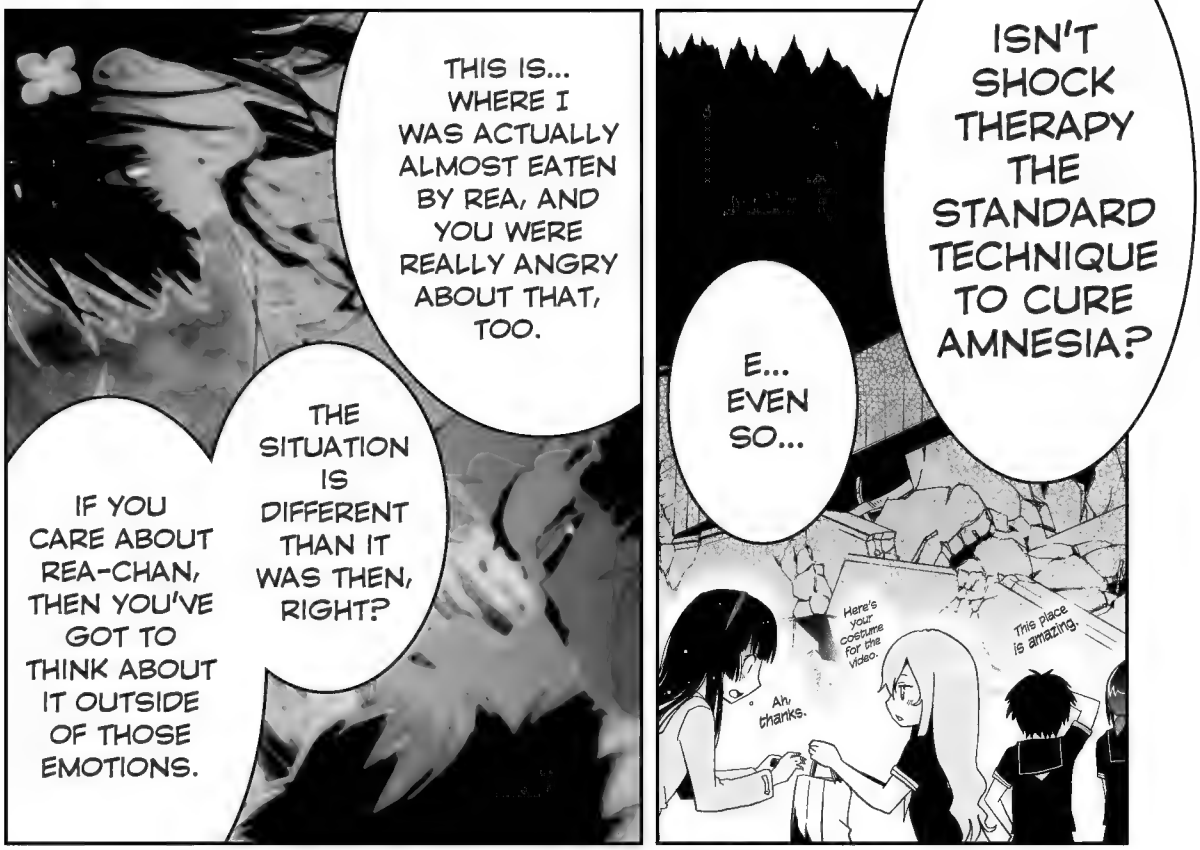
YOU SING! YOU DANCE! AND YOU'VE EVEN MASTERED THE ART OF PHOTO MODEL-ING!
THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF BLOOD IN YOU, BUT YOU'RE CHOCK-FULL OF PASSION !!
SHIMMER
YOU'VE GOT THAT UNUSUALLY CHARMING SCAR-RIDDLED LOOK.
YOU'RE THE UNHEALTHY IDOL FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, SANKA+REA !
SHIMMER
HUU-HH ...?

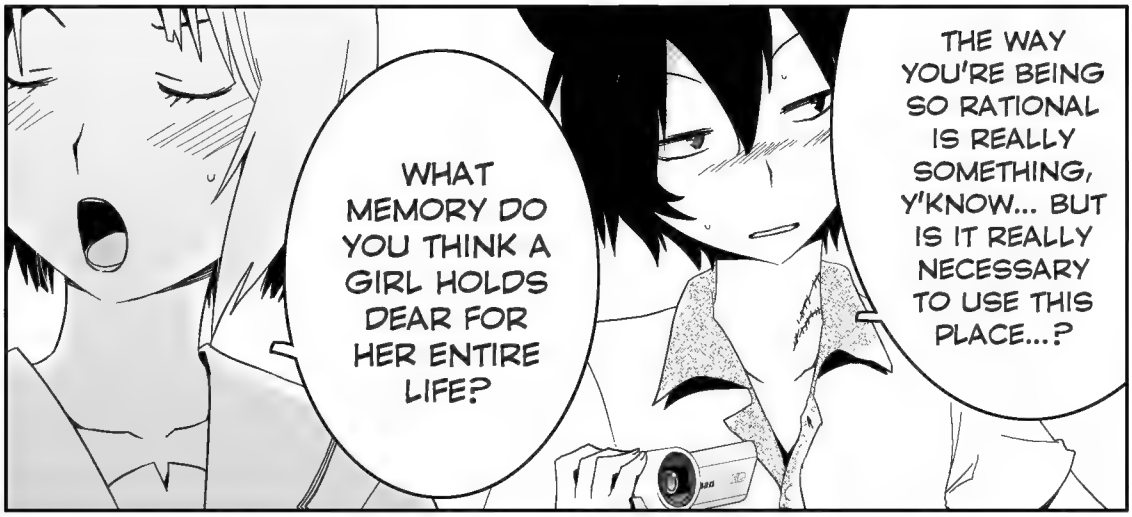
IS THAT ...
...RE... REALLY TRUE ?
HEY, HEY, WE CAN'T HAVE OUR IDOL GETTING SUN-BURNED!
WELL THEN, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, BEFORE WE GO TO SCHOOL, WE'LL FILM A MUSIC VIDEO!!
B... BY FILM YOU MEAN...
T... THAT GUY... !!
!!

DID YOU FORGET? LOOK, HE'S...
ha ha...
HE'S YOUR PERSONAL CAMERAMAN, REA-CHAN!
MOR-NIN'.
conan
HE'S POINT-ING THE CAMERA AT ME AGAIN... NOOO... !!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? OF COURSE HE'S POINTING A CAMERA AT YOU!
GRAB
THAT'S WHY IT'S NO PROBLEM IF HE'S FILMING YOU.
HE DOES HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF A BAD ATTITUDE AND SOME ROUGH EDGES HERE AND THERE, THOUGH.
WHAT'S THAT, WANKO?!
SCRAPE SCRAPE
DON'T BREAK CHARAC-TER.
THAT'S MANA-GER RAN-KO, RIII-GHT ...?
NHGGAAA
SCRAPE

STARE...
...
TODAY IS OUR IMPORTANT SHOOT FOR THE MUSIC VIDEO...
THE COM-BINATION OF THE CAMERAMAN AND THE SUBJECT IS REALLY IMPORTANT!! GET IT?!
TWITCH
OW OW OW.
BOTH OF YOU PLAY NICE TODAY, OKAY ?!
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS GOING ON SINCE YOU CALLED ON US SO EARLY IN THE MORNING TODAY...
...BUT THIS SEEMS QUITE INTEREST-ING.
I SEE. THE PLAN IS THAT WE'RE PRETEND-ING TO FILM A MUSIC VIDEO, BUT IN REALITY WE'RE GOING TO PROVE SHE'S A ZOMBIE AND SEND THAT TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY OVER THE INTERNET, RIGHT?!
NO, YOU HAVE IT WRONG.
HELL YEAH!
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

...
NO ENTRY
RUINS ...?
REA-CHAN, WE'RE ABOUT READY TO START FILMING!
HEY... IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
ARE YOU STILL SAY-ING THAT ?


THIS IS... WHERE I WAS ACTUALLY ALMOST EATEN BY REA, AND YOU WERE REALLY ANGRY ABOUT THAT, TOO.
THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS THEN, RIGHT?
IF YOU CARE ABOUT REA-CHAN, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT IT OUTSIDE OF THOSE EMOTIONS.
ISN'T SHOCK THERAPY THE STANDARD TECHNIQUE TO CURE AMNESIA?
E... EVEN SO...
Here's your costume for the video.
This place is amazing.
Ah, thanks.


THE WAY YOU'RE BEING SO RATIONAL IS REALLY SOMETHING, Y'KNOW... BUT IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO USE THIS PLACE...?
WHAT MEMORY DO YOU THINK A GIRL HOLDS DEAR FOR HER ENTIRE LIFE?

HUH ...?
...THE TIME THAT SHE'S ABLE TO OWN HER FIRST CELL PHONE?
YOU IDIOT !!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY HER *FIRST EXPERIENCE* !!
FIRST EX...
...
I MEAN ... WAIT WAIT WAIT.
IT'S NOT LIKE REA AND I HAVE DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT, NOT EVEN ONCE...
IN A WAY, FOR HER, "EATING" IS JUST THE SAME AS AN ACTION OF THAT NATURE!!

TWITCH
HUH? WHAT'S THAT? JUST NOW DID YOU SAY FIRST EXP...
OH, HEYYY!
IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL!
SHOVE
LET'S HURRY UP AND FILM AROUND THAT RUBBLE OVER THERE...!!
SHOVE
AH... HUUH...
FOR SOME REASON, I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT CHANGE CLOTHES OVER AND OVER SINCE LAST NIGHT.
...WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT WE'RE FORCING THIS, BUT IF REA'S MEMORIES RETURN AS A RESULT ...
RUSTLE
READY ...?
HERE WE GO!
BUBBLE BUBBLE BUBBLE
REFLECTOR BOARD
Handmade

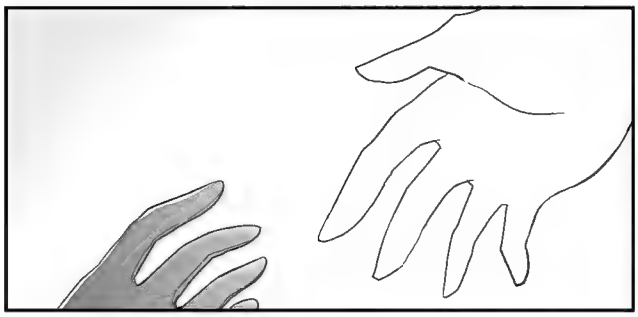
STOP
SNAP !!
NOW LOOK THIS WAY.
DON'T LOOK AT YOUR FEET.
OKAY, TWIRL AROUND.
twirl
twirl
GAA-AHH, CUT, CUT! THAT'S NO GOOD !!
...UM, WHAT WAS WRONG WITH IT...?

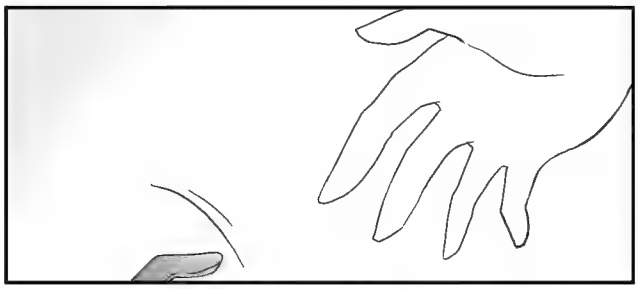
GOT IT? YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE MOVEMENTS OF YOUR BODY AND YOUR EXPRESSION INNOCENT WHILE PUTTING IN AN ELEMENT OF SEN-SUALITY !!
VICTORY COMES TO THOSE WHO CAN MAKE SOMEONE THINK, "OH, I WANT TO SUPPORT A GIRL LIKE THIS, EVEN IF IT MEANS INVESTING MY ENTIRE FORTUNE."
Woww...
E... EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT... WHEN YOU SUDDENLY TURN A CAMERA ON ME AND TELL ME TO ACT...
OH, COME ON... GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE... ALL RIGHT...
TAA-
LIKE THIS !
LIKE THIS !!
DAAAAAN
LIKE THIS !!!

WITH THE CAMERA ROLLING, YOU TWO GO TAKE A TRIP AROUND THE RUINS, JUST THE TWO OF YOU.
GOT IT.
WHAT?!
A-A-ALONE WITH THIS GUY?!
THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO GET USED TO THE CAMERA, WON'T IT?

GLIDE...

AND I ALREADY TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I? THE "FEELINGS" OF THE CAMERAMAN AND THE SUBJECT ARE IMPOR-TANT!!
THIS IS A COMMAND FROM YOUR PRO-DUCER!!
...IS THAT PERSON A MANAGER OR THE DIRECTOR OF THE VIDEO? OR IS SHE A PRODUCER?
SHE IS LIKELY BOTH ALL AND NONE.
WOW, HOW PHILO-SOPHI-CAL.
whisper whisper
MUNCH MUNCH





STAND...
I...
I CAN STAND UP ON MY OWN.

HERE.
STAND UP.

JEEZ, AND WE JUST STARTED FILMING...
D-DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ME, PLEASE ...!
IT'S FINE, JUST FINE.
SKR
SKR
Canon

BE-
CAUSE
FROM
HERE
ON
OUT
...
...IS
THE
REAL
PER-
FOR-
MANCE
!!

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA
yeaahh!!

44 SOMETHING... I CAN'T SEE...

WARM BODIES

HIRU
MA JI ?!
IT SEEMS THERE'S A GIRL IN THIS TOWN WHO IS NOT ONLY CURRENTLY ACTIVE AS A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL IDOL, BUT IS ALSO A ZOMBIE.
WELL THEN, FOR TODAY'S IN-YOUR-FACE NEWS REPORT, WE'VE COME TO SHIYOH, ASHIKURA COUNTY, IN K PREFECTURE.
HIRUMAJI?! REPORTER
Hiiragi Maya

GLOOOW
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!! GOOD MEDICINE TASTES BITTER!! (?)
FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS !!!

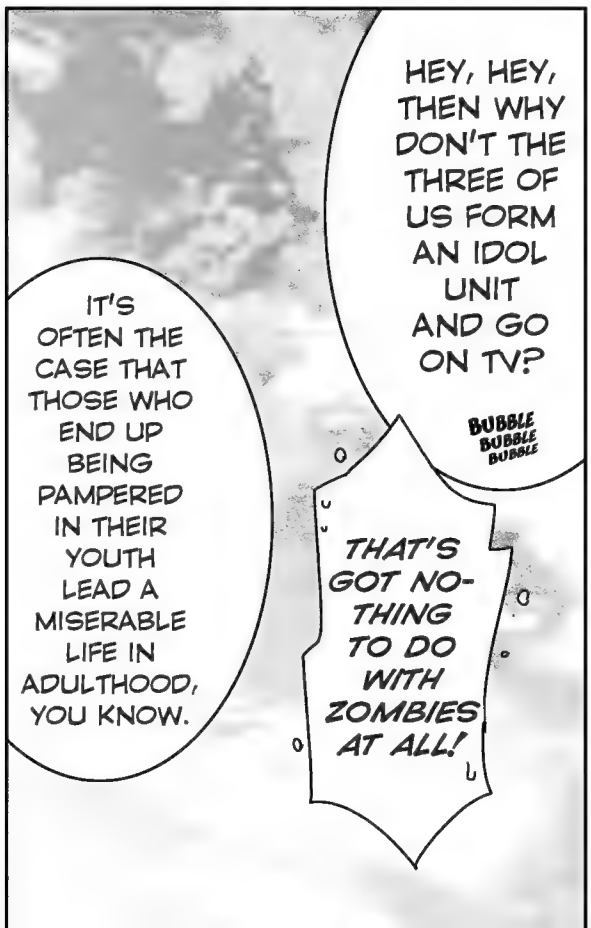
LET'S TALK TO THE LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT WHO PROVIDED US WITH THIS INFORMA-TION.
DOES SUCH A GIRL REALLY EXIST ?
YES.
SHIYOH MIDDLE SCHOOL, FIRST YEAR
Shinoda Ichie

When your flesh and blood...
...turn into...
...my energy...

Kyao!
DOOT
DOOT
DOOT
DOOT
But I'm no good with livers...
Slurp slurp, down to the marrow...
I'll eat you, sparkle sparkle...
HEY, HEY, HEY, MAYBE THIS COULD REALLY WORK ?!
...AND THAT'LL BE THE WAY WE SELL IT, RIGHT ?!
FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET
FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET

OH, NO. OUR OBJECTIVE ISN'T TO ACTUALLY SELL IT, AFTER ALL.
HUH? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT IT FROM CHIHIRO?
HUH ...?
BUT THAT PLAN SEEMS FUN, DOESN'T IT?
sparkle sparkleee
HMMM.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HURRY AND GET READY! WE HAVE TO GET AHEAD OF THOSE TWO!!

...SO THEN WHAT'S THAT "REAL" PERFORMANCE ...?
BRING THAT LUGGAGE OVER THERE.
We're going !!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I NEED ALL THREE OF YOU TO DO!


HEY, HEY, THEN WHY DON'T THE THREE OF US FORM AN IDOL UNIT AND GO ON TV?
BUBBLE BUBBLE BUBBLE
THAT'S GOT NO-THING TO DO WITH ZOMBIES AT ALL!
IT'S OFTEN THE CASE THAT THOSE WHO END UP BEING PAMPERED IN THEIR YOUTH LEAD A MISERABLE LIFE IN ADULTHOOD, YOU KNOW.

...
AHH.
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
Myaa...
COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND LOOK OVER HERE JUST A LITTLE MORE...?
SCREECH
UNHH.
REC

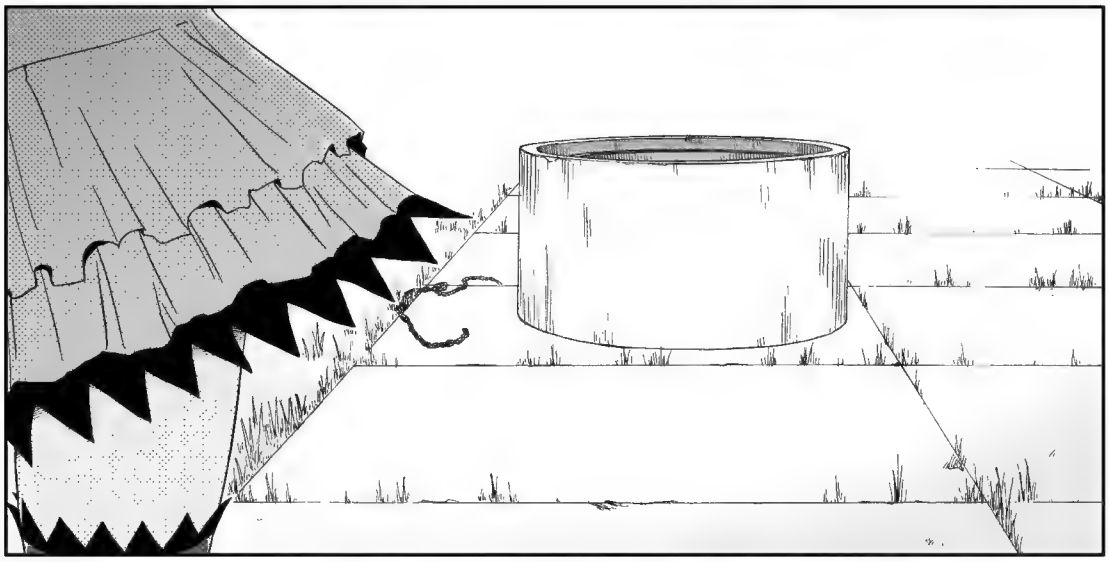
COME ON NOW, THIS JUST GOT THAT MUCH HARDER TO PULL OFF WITH THE TWO OF US ALONE.
HMPH
...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
... HOW ARE YOU FEEL-ING?

DARIN PROB-ABLY TOLD YOU ...
...BUT YOU'RE MAKING SURE TO INGEST HYDRANGEA LEAVES EVERY FEW HOURS, AREN'T YOU?
...I HAVE ONE QUES-TION.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HYDRANGEA LEAVES HAVE *POISON* IN THEM, DON'T THEY?

WHY AM I OKAY WHEN I EAT THEM ...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A ZOMBIE ...
SCREECH!
UNHH.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A ZOMBIE THAT EATS HYDRANGEA! PLEASE DON'T JUST SAY WHATEVER COMES TO MIND!!
GRAAAAH
DESPITE HOW I LOOK, I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN QUITE A FEW ZOMBIE MOVIES!!
I SHOWED THEM TO YOU, THOUGH.
WHAT ZOMBIES EAT AREN'T LEAVES LIKE THAT...
... THEY EAT HU-MAN ...
...?
STEP
STEP
!!!
WAIT. YOU'RE WALK-ING TOO FAST.
HEYY.
LET'S GO AROUND QUICK-LY...
...AND GET BACK TO WHERE EVERY-ONE ELSE IS.
CLACK
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I...
IT'S NOTHING ...
BA-BUMP
BUMP ...
BA-BUMP ...
THE HELL ?!
WAIT, I SAID !



THIS WELL... I KNOW IT...?
PLOOP...
HUH ...?
...
Plip

HMPH
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT KIND OF STUFF...
... HEY, DO YOU KNOW ...
... WHAT HAP-PENED HERE BE-FORE ...?
NOT LIKE I WANT TO KNOW, EITHER ...
THOUGH FAINT...
IT MIGHT BECOME A TRIGGER, AND SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY REGAIN HER MEMORIES...!
IF WE GIVE IT ONE MORE GO,
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S JUST LIKE WANKO SAID.
...REA STILL REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED HERE AFTER ALL...!

AT THE BEGINNING, I ACTUALLY DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD GO...
...BUT WHO KNOWS ...
...IF WE DO IT, THEN THERE REALLY MIGHT BE SOME EFFECT...!!
ZOOOMMM
REC
CLACK
CL-CLATTER...
EEK!
THE GROUND AROUND HERE IS UNSTABLE, SO BE CAREFUL.
IF YOUR BODY WERE TO GET HURT EVEN ONCE...
I... I DON'T NEED YOU TO KEEP REMIND-ING ME TO BE CARE-FUL!
SKR
SKR
WHAT ON EARTH IS UP WITH THIS GUY ...?
HE'S NOT EVEN A DOCTOR LIKE DARIN, SO WHY IS HE SO WORRIED ABOUT MY BODY...?
SKR

...OH...
FWOOOOO
BA-BUMP
SOMEHOW... I KNOW THIS PLACE... WHAT WAS IT, AGAIN...?
SQUEEZE...
BA...
BUMP...
THIS... ISN'T...
...MY FIRST TIME HERE AFTER ALL ...?!
BA-BUMP

...H, HEY, MR. CAMERA-MAN ...
THIS PLACE ...
H... HUH ?
W... WAIT JUST A SECOND, MR. CAMERA-MAN?! WHERE DID YOU GO?
HEY ?!
M... MAYBE HE'S FOOLING AROUND AND HIDING ?
HEY, I SAID !!
?!
RRRUMMBLLLL
RRMMBLLL...
THUN-DER ...?!

WHO ... IS THAT ...?
HUH ...?
RRMMBLL
lick
lick
lick
VOOO

RRUMMBLLLL
smckk ...
smckk
lick
FLASH

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RANKO-SAN?
?!
PEEK
POP
...
H... HUH? WE WERE FOUND OUT...
ER, RATHER, UM...
THI... THIS IS...
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS ALL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT, CHIHIRO!
YOUR PLAN WAS PRETTY MUCH MESSED UP!!
GROWL
GROWL
GROWL
ISN'T THIS ALSO PART OF THE MUSIC VIDEO?
...COME ON, WHAT THE HECK DID THEY THINK WOULD HAPPEN WITH ACTING LIKE THIS?
I... I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU MIGHT FEEL SOMETHING IF YOU SAW THIS... OR WHAT-EVER.
GIPP
MEAT SAUCE
RUMBLE
THEY NEEDED TO REFINE THEIR ACT-ING AND PERFOR-MANCE A LITTLE MORE, I THINK...
SH... SHUT UP!!
HEY, IT DIDN'T WORK AFTER ALL, DID IT?!

...
WHY IS EVERY-ONE...
...ACTING SO STRANGELY, I WONDER ...?
STARE...
...
BUT
...
...THAT NECK... AND ARM... SURE DO LOOK...
RUMMMBBBLLL
?!
WHA....
WAS THAT THE SOUND OF YOUR STOMACH?! I MEAN... NO WAY...
SKRR...
HE HE...
SKHH...
IT'S TRUE...
...THAT GUY...
GRHH...

...PER-HAPS...
GRHHH
AH... LOOK.
...LOOKS JUST A BIT... APPETIZ-ING...
I GUESS ...
...IT REALLY DID HAVE SOME EFFECT, HUH...?
OOOMM

IT SEEMS LIKE RE... REA-CHAN REMEM-BERED THAT YOU LOOK DELICIOUS...?!
I... FEEL ...
...HUNGR... Y...
NO, NO, NO! SO, WHAT DO WE DO AFTER THIS?
HUH?
OH... WELL, THE PLAN ENDS HERE ...
AFTER THIS, YOU CALM REA-CHAN DOWN ...
C... CALM HER DOWN? HOW EXACTLY SHOULD I DO THAT...?!
SKR...
SKR
SKR
NOT TO MENTION, IT SEEMS MORE LIKE YOU JUST STIMULATED HER APPETITE ...
SKR
...RATH-ER THAN BRING-ING HER MEMORIES BACK...
SKR...

GOBBLE
GH
GH
I REALLY... SHOULDN'T HAVE...
...ASKED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE...

WOOSH
HUH ...?!
BITE

WHAT FOOL-ISH-NESS ARE YOU UP TO ?

THE WAY TO HANDLE THIS SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.
DARIN ?!
FWSH!
DA...
MORE IMPORTANTLY... WHY ARE YOU IN JAPAN? DIDN'T YOU GO TO A HOSPITAL IN AMERICA TO TREAT YOUR WOUNDS...?
HOSPITAL LIFE IS BORING, SO I JUST TOOK THEIR PAINKILLERS AND LEFT RIGHT AWAY... ON TOP OF THAT...
STAND
MUNCH
MUNCH
WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS (OR HUNGER) HAVE APPEARED DUE TO A FAILURE TO INGEST ENOUGH HYDRANGEA POISON, HAVEN'T THEY?
HER MEMORIES HAVEN'T RETURNED BECAUSE OF YOUR LITTLE PERFORMANCE, THIS ALL JUST HAPPENED TO COINCIDE WITH HER HUNGER.
The play had nothing to do with it...
...

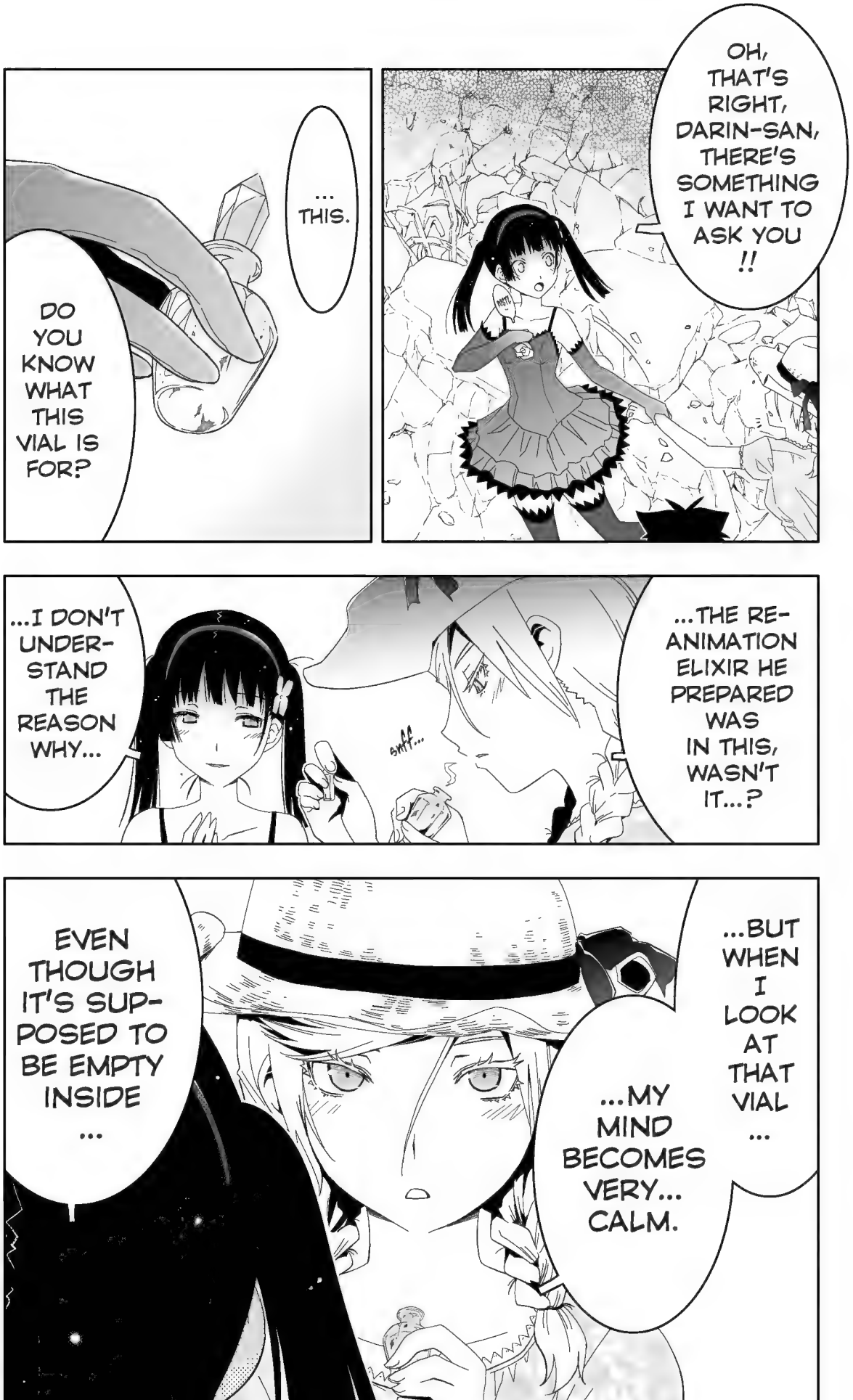
...I WAS JUST TOTALLY WOR-RIED ...
...ABOUT LEAVING IT ALL UP TO YOU, AFTER ALL...
...SO YOU CAME BACK... FOR ME ?!
Even though I was trying to live a life away from zombies for the time being.
POKE
FOR REA!! THOUGH IF YOU WERE MORE RELIABLE FROM THE START, THEN IT WOULD BE FINE...
SH... SHUT UP!
...HM? IS IT ME OR HAS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO SOMEHOW GOTTEN NARROWER THAN BEFORE ?
hmm?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ON THE ISLAND ...?
STARE
conan HD

HUH, D... DARIN-SAN IS HERE...?!
And she cut her hair too?
SURPRISE
HUH... I...?
OH ...!
MUNCH
WOOSH
REA!!
COME ON, I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? EVERY FEW HOURS...
WHY... WEREN'T YOU MAKING SURE TO INGEST HYDRAN-GEA?!
IT'S YOUR OWN BODY, YOU KNOW!!
GRAB

I DON'T CARE IF YOU HATE ME... BUT...
BUT ...
...BUT JUST MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW AT LEAST THAT! I'M BEGGING YOU...!!

I... I UNDER-STAND.
FWOOSH
GULP...
...WHY DID I SAY THAT HE "LOOKS APPETIZING" ...?
ON TOP OF THAT, BEFORE I...
THIS GUY... WHY HE DOES HE CARE SO MUCH ...?

YOU BE CAREFUL, TOO. HER INSTINCTS AS A ZOMBIE HAVEN'T CHANGED, AFTER ALL.
SKR
F... FROM NOW ON...
...I'LL BE MORE CARE-FUL...
ON TOP OF THAT... WELL, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T REMEM-BER YOU...
...THERE'S A CHANCE YOU'LL GROW CLOSER ONCE AGAIN AS YOU BUILD A NEW RELA-TIONSHIP, RIGHT?
WELL...
THAT'S TRUE...


OH, THAT'S RIGHT, DARIN-SAN, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU !!
... THIS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS VIAL IS FOR?
...THE RE-ANIMATION ELIXIR HE PREPARED WAS IN THIS, WASN'T IT...?
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND THE REASON WHY...
sniff...
...BUT WHEN I LOOK AT THAT VIAL ...
...MY MIND BECOMES VERY... CALM.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE EMPTY INSIDE ...

FOR ME ...
...I FEEL LIKE IT'S PACKED FULL OF SOME KIND OF "IMPORTANT THING" I CAN'T SEE.
... WELL, NOW.
EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE IT HER-SELF...
... SUB-CON-SCIOUS-LY...

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA
NGH
GH
GH

June 18, 8:00 A.M.
BWAAAMP
HEY, COME ON.
WHAT HAP-PENED, FURUYA, SPIT IT OUT!!
HMM ...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
K Prefecture, Ashikura County, Shiyoh
Yasutaka, who redid his image.
GRIN
PRETEND-ING LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW. WELL, I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU.
SANKAKU

CL-CLACK

CL-CLACK

CL-CLACK

...

SHIMMER

45

REA... SON...

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ 28 DAYS LATER ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

BREAK UP
GRINNNN
THAT'S IT! YOU FINALLY BROKE UP WITH REA-SAN !!
THE FACT THAT SHE'S NOT LIVING IN YOUR HOUSE ANYMORE AND THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL SEPARATELY SAYS EVERYTHING, FURUYA...!!
WELL, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I REALIZED THE FACT THAT THE TWO OF YOU WERE DATING WAS A COMPLETE FABRICATION !!
PROD
PROD
PROD
PROD
PROD
Annyka...
You're acting all triumphant like you've slayed a dragon or something...
MUNCH
MUNCH
OH!
HEY, THERE THEY ARE. BOYYYS !
AH, GOOD MOOORN-ING, RAN-KO-SAN!!
*They can't hear each other.

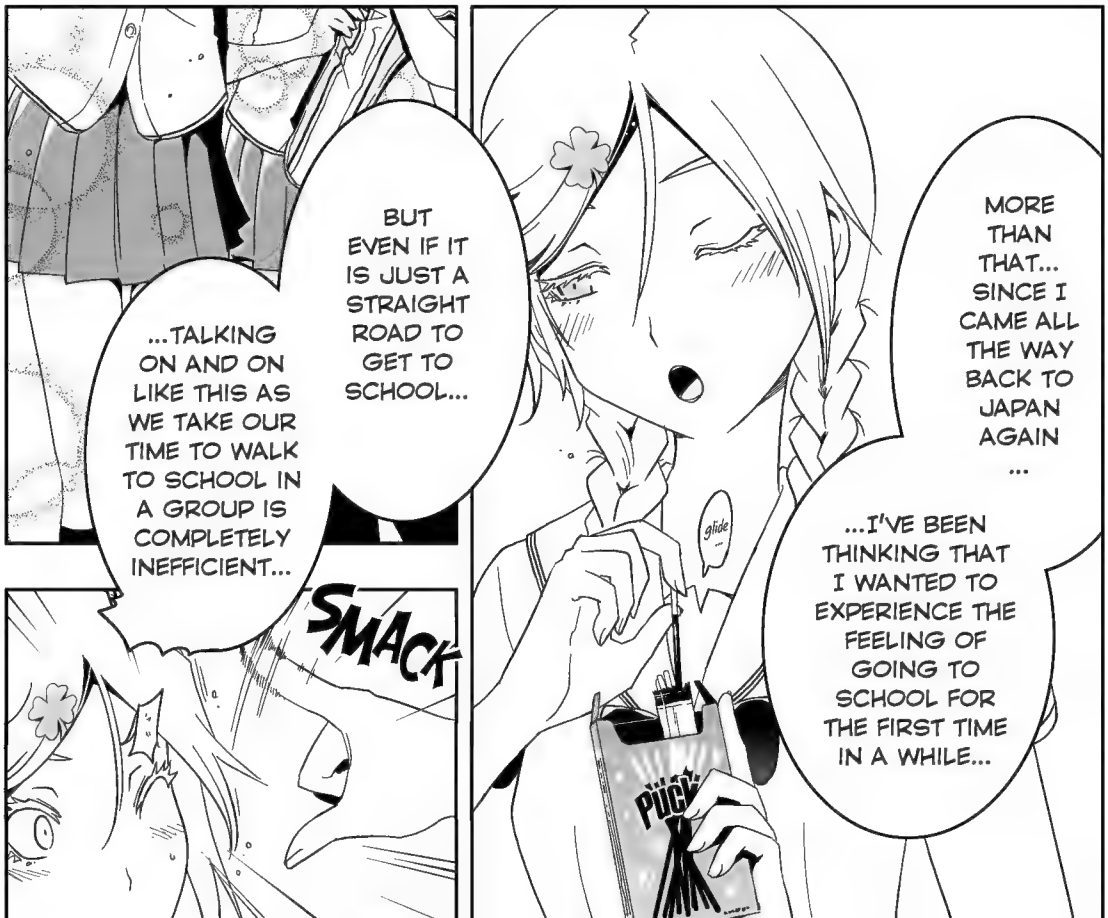
HEY YOU TWO, AT LEAST DO THEM THE FAVOR OF WAVING YOUR HANDS?
HUH ?
RAN RAN Pii
...
LOOK, HURRY !

SHIMMER
WHO-OOA-HHH.
Hiii... (MONOTONE)

BAM
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET HER SOME-WHERE BEFORE.
BY THE WAY, JUST WHO IS THAT BLONDE YOUNG LADY WITH BRAIDS NEXT TO HER?!
...
I WIN!! I WIN AT LIFE !!
NOD
NOD
NOD
NOD
NOD
NOD
WHY, REA-TAN WAVED BACK AT JUST ME... !!

I'm sure that she has a gentle-hearted nature, such that she couldn't even kill a single bug...
Hey... look at that smile...
Just one look is all you need to know that she was raised in a wonderful environment overflowing with love...
Eeek! It's going to lay eggs in me!
In things like that.
Hun... actually I am really interested...
NO, ACTUALLY SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO TREATS EVEN PEOPLE LIKE INSECTS, THOUGH...
That's not much of a refreshing image...
REFRESHING
OH... SO, THAT WAS JUST...
IN THE END, THE STORY ABOUT ME BEING A LOCAL IDOL WAS...
OF COURSE!!
LIAR! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?!
SEE THE TRUTH IN HER PURE AND CLEAR EYES!!
OW! THE HELL!
UMMM...
WAAHH
Ah... What a pain...
REA-SAMA, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN OUR IDOL, HAVEN'T YOU...?!
Right, everyone?

PEWW
WE WERE SO LONELY WHEN YOU SUDDENLY WENT OVERSEAS AND WERE OUT OF SCHOOL ALL LAST WEEK !!
IT MADE ME FEEL THAT SHIYOH REALLY NEEDS THE PRES-ENCE OF AN IDOL AFTER ALL...
S... SO I REALLY... AM AN IDOL?
OH... IT'S BETTER NOT TO BELIEVE HELEN'S WORDS ...
This is going to get complicated!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY?


MORE THAN THAT... SINCE I CAME ALL THE WAY BACK TO JAPAN AGAIN ...
...I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT I WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE FEELING OF GOING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
glide
PUCK
BUT EVEN IF IT IS JUST A STRAIGHT ROAD TO GET TO SCHOOL...
...TALKING ON AND ON LIKE THIS AS WE TAKE OUR TIME TO WALK TO SCHOOL IN A GROUP IS COMPLETELY INEFFICIENT...
SMACK

I'M TELLING YOU, QUIT THAT WAY OF THINKING ALREADY.
IF YOU KEEP THAT UP, I'M GONNA HIT YOU AGAIN.
A FEW DAYS AFTER RETURNING TO JAPAN FROM ZOMA...
...IT SEEMS THAT REA, WHOSE RETURN TO THE SANKA MANSION WAS SHORT-LIVED...
...BEGAN LIVING WITH DARIN TEMPORARILY IN THE WEEKLY APARTMENT DARIN WAS RENTING...
...AS THOUGH IT WAS INSTINCTIVELY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR HER TO BE AT HOME, AFTER ALL.
Why do you only read math and science books? No novels ...
Because it's boring for me to follow the characters' feelings and other stuff I don't care for.

Hmmmm? Rea-sama, you're really cool to the touch.
RUB
RUB
THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT... AS LONG AS DARIN IS NEAR HER I FEEL RELIEVED, BUT...
SINCE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH REA HAD ALREADY GONE TO ZERO ONCE...
...FOR NOW, THIS WAY IS LIKELY BETTER FOR REA. IT'S BETTER THAN ME BEING BY HER SIDE... I THINK.
SOMEHOW, I CAN'T REALLY TELL IF I'M RELIEVED, OR IF I'M FEELING LONELY MYSELF.
IT'S A MYSTE-RIOUS FEELING, THOUGH ...

28 DAYS AFTER... REA... BECAME A ZOMBIE...
ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED THAT IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR A NORMAL CORPSE TO HAVE ALREADY COMPLETELY ROTTED, BUT THANKS TO THE ZOMBIFICATION AND HER INGESTION OF HYDRANGEA, THE PROGRESSION OF HER DECOMPOSITION HAS BEEN LARGELY CONTROLLED.
EVEN SO, ZOMBIES TEND TO LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS... AND CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT IT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN HER BODY AND REASON AS TIME PASSES...
...IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE STILL HAVE A FULL TWO MONTHS OF TIME LEFT...
BUT UNLIKE OTHER ZOMBIES, ONE PART OF REA'S BRAIN IS STILL "ALIVE."

I'M NOT TOTALLY CERTAIN OF IT... BUT IF WE CAN KEEP THAT PART OF REA IN GOOD USE, ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE'LL NEVER AGAIN FALL INTO THE TURBID PERIOD...?
SALVA MESSED AROUND WITH HER BRAIN, AND SHE LOST SOME OF HER MEMORIES...
...BUT EVEN SO, THE "LIVING" PART OF HER BRAIN STILL EXISTS...!
...AND HAVING WATCHED REA THAT WHOLE TIME, FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, I'VE COME TO FEEL LIKE IT'S NOT ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION...
PERHAPS I'M BEING A LITTLE TOO OPTIMISTIC... BUT I'VE EXPERIENCED ALL SORTS OF THINGS IN THIS PAST MONTH OR SO...
AS LONG AS SHE'S CAREFUL DURING THE SUMMER, MIGHT NOT HER BODY, TOO, SURPRISINGLY HOLD UP FOR SEVERAL YEARS, OR SEVERAL DOZEN YEARS, AS IT IS...?

SEEMS LIKE...
...IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN IN MY OWN ROOM ...
...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
...I CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF MY ROOM SINCE I'M ALONE IN HERE...
URGE
URGE
URGE
nbuhbuu buhhh...
IT'S BEEN BUILDING UP FOR A WHILE NOW...
...WELL THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO ...!!
URGE
URGE
URGE...

GYAAAAHHH

WHEWW... I'VE WANTED TO SEE THIS NEW SERIES FOR A WHILE...
NHARUYOO...
ORIENTAL ZOMBIE GIRLS ARE GOOD TOO, ARU YO. ❤
AAHHH
...
THE MAKE-UP IS GOOD, AND THE ZOMBIE ACTORS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING...
AINGHYAA
... HUH?

AHH ...
I SEE ...
SKREEK
ZA-THU-THUNKK
NI HAAAOOEEEHH
GYOEHH
WHAT'S THIS ...?
EVEN WHEN FACED WITH A ZOMBIE GIRL...
...I'M NOT GETTING... THE SAME FEELINGS OF EXCITEMENT I'D GET BEFORE...?!
AAAHH
WOAAHHH
...IT WAS THE REAL THING...
AFTER ALL, FOR THE PAST MONTH, WHAT WAS NEXT TO ME WASN'T A FAKE...
ZA-SQUOOSH
NYEHH

...WHEN DID I START TO LIKE ZOMBIES SO MUCH ...?
...BUT COME TO THINK OF IT...
... EVEN TO ME ...
... IT'S STRANGE ...
WRIGGLE
!!
AS MUCH I TRY TO REMEM-BER, I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT...
I ALSO FEEL LIKE ...
...THERE WAS SOME REASON FOR IT ALL...

GRAB
... NH.
IT'S HAP-PENING... AGAIN. THIS FEELING ...!!
I FELT SOMETHING JUST LIKE IT WHEN I WAS ON THAT ISLAND... WHAT... IS IT...?!
... BUB ?!
SSSS
WHY ARE YOU ...?
TENSE TENSE
HSSSSS

WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE FOR ...?!
NO, ITS PATTERN IS DIFFER-ENT...
IS IT DA-RIN'S ...?
WH...
A ZOMBIE OWL ...?!

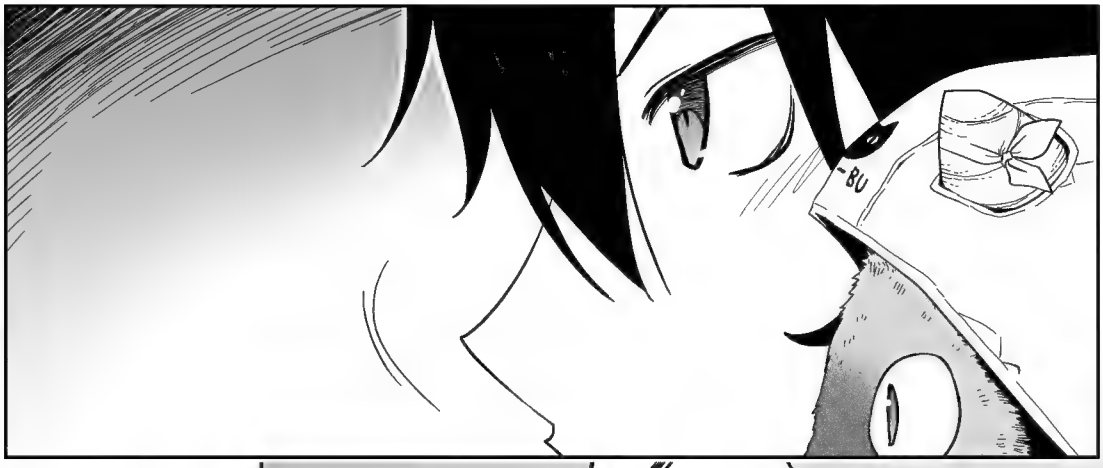
THUP
HUH ?
COO.

...A LET-TER ...?!
THIS IS...
...
FLAPP

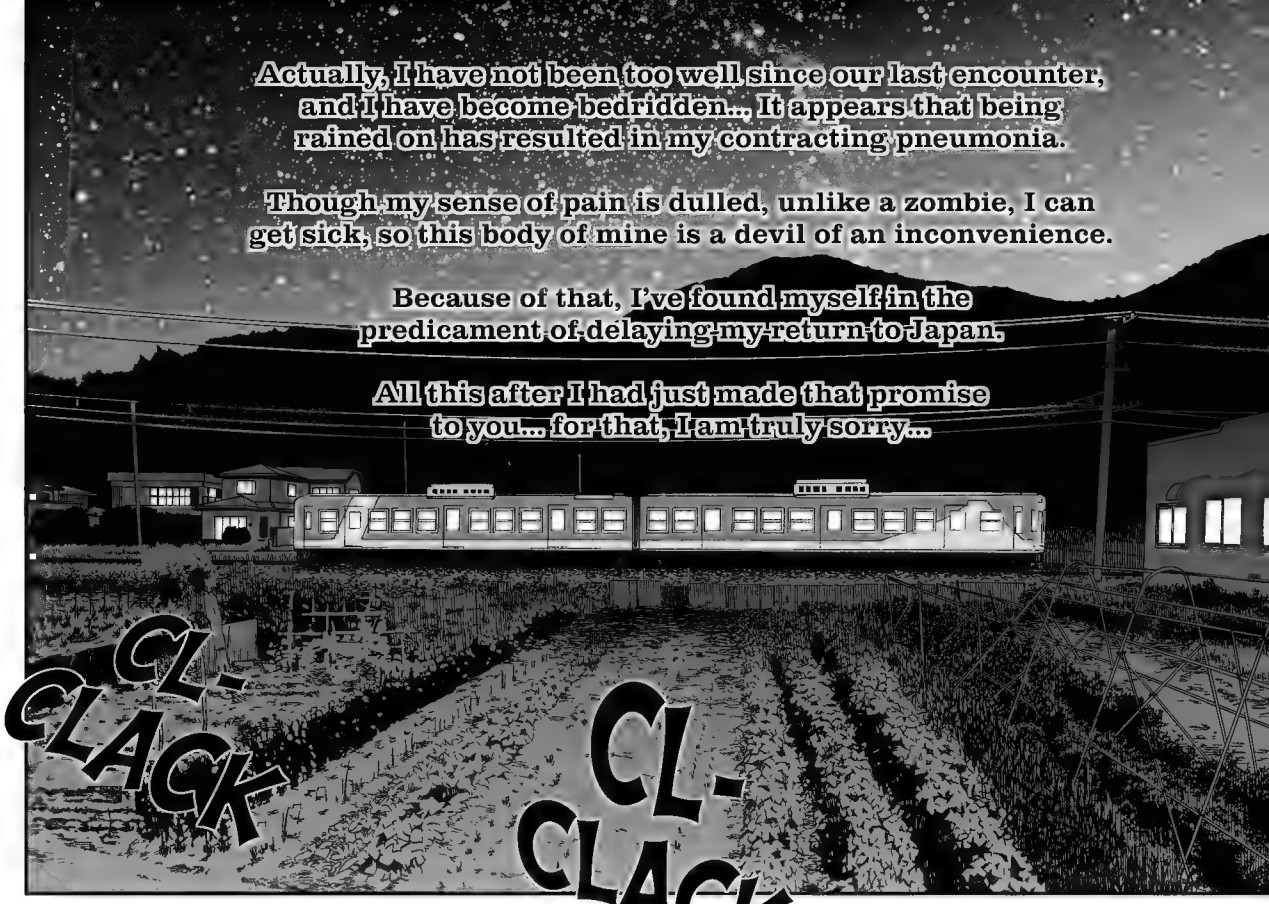
POP
LIVING DEAD
bubble
bubble
TH-THUMP-THUMP-THUMP
PHEW
PHEW

U... UM, SO, THOSE CAMP-GROUNDS WE WENT TO RECENTLY, CAN YOU GET THERE BY TRAIN ...?
HUH? WELL, TECHNICALLY YOU CAN... BUT YOU'D NEED TO WALK QUITE A BIT, EVEN FROM THE CLOSEST STATION.
STEP
STEP
OH MY, ARE YOU GOING OUT? DINNER WILL BE SOON...
It's the stew you like, brother.
SORRY, I THINK I'LL BE BACK BEFORE BREAK-FAST!
HUH ...?
breakfast...
CL-CL-CLACK
buh buu
rauhh
... BUB ?
WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU WANT TO GO TOO?
slide
buhfu
STICK

TRUTH IS... I WOULD'VE FELT A BIT LONELY GOING OVER THERE ALL BY MYSELF...
MMF MMF
I GET IT ...
I'M HAPPY.

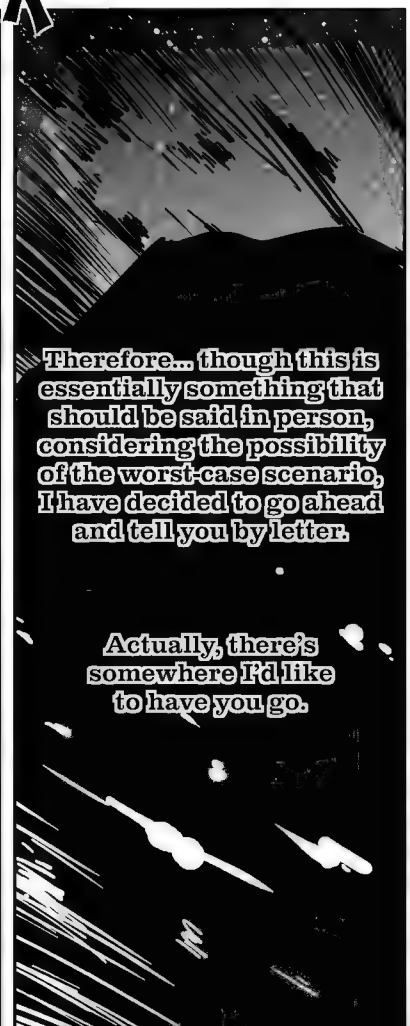

-BU

To Chihiro:
There is something that I must apologize to you about.
CL-CLACK
CL-CLACK


Actually, I have not been too well since our last encounter, and I have become bedridden... It appears that being rained on has resulted in my contracting pneumonia.
Though my sense of pain is dulled, unlike a zombie, I can get sick, so this body of mine is a devil of an inconvenience.
Because of that, I've found myself in the predicament of delaying my return to Japan.
All this after I had just made that promise to you... for that, I am truly sorry...
CL-CLACK
CL-CLACK

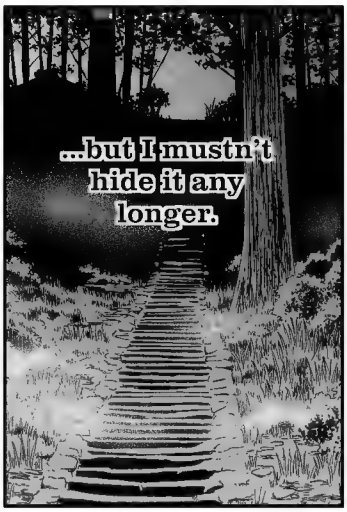
The ice caves.
CL-CLACK

...That's right, that place beside those campgrounds we visit every year...
CL-CLACK

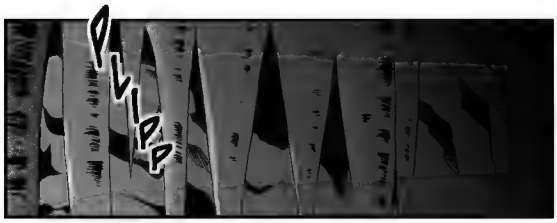

Therefore... though this is essentially something that should be said in person, considering the possibility of the worst-case scenario, I have decided to go ahead and tell you by letter.
Actually, there's somewhere I'd like to have you go.

...Oh, Chihiro. What you will see after this...
...may lead to confusion...

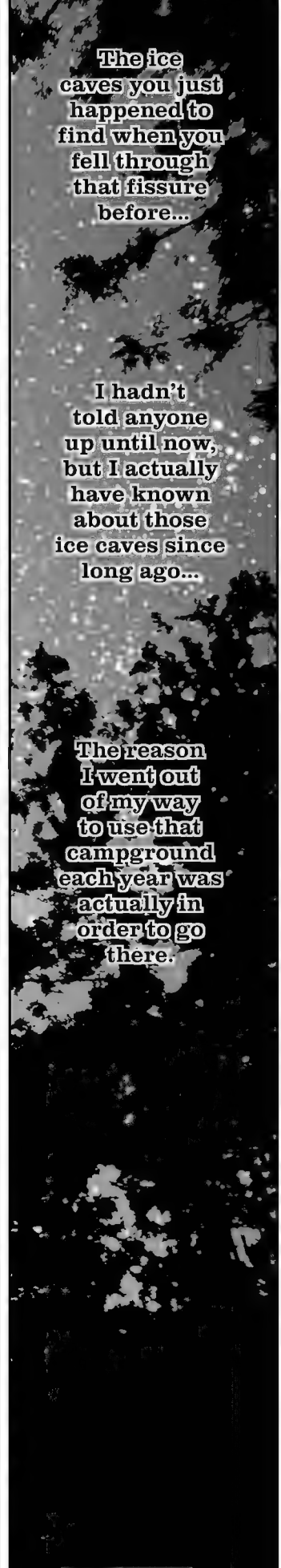
The reason I wanted to tell you but never did...


...but I mustn't hide it any longer.

THE REASON GRANDPA WANTED TO TELL ME BUT NEVER DID...
Coming here reminds me of when we had that test of courage...
TREMBLLE


PLIPP

PLIPP
PLIPP


The ice caves you just happened to find when you fell through that fissure before...
I hadn't told anyone up until now, but I actually have known about those ice caves since long ago...
The reason I went out of my way to use that campground each year was actually in order to go there.

M...OM
...?!

OOOO

SANKAREA

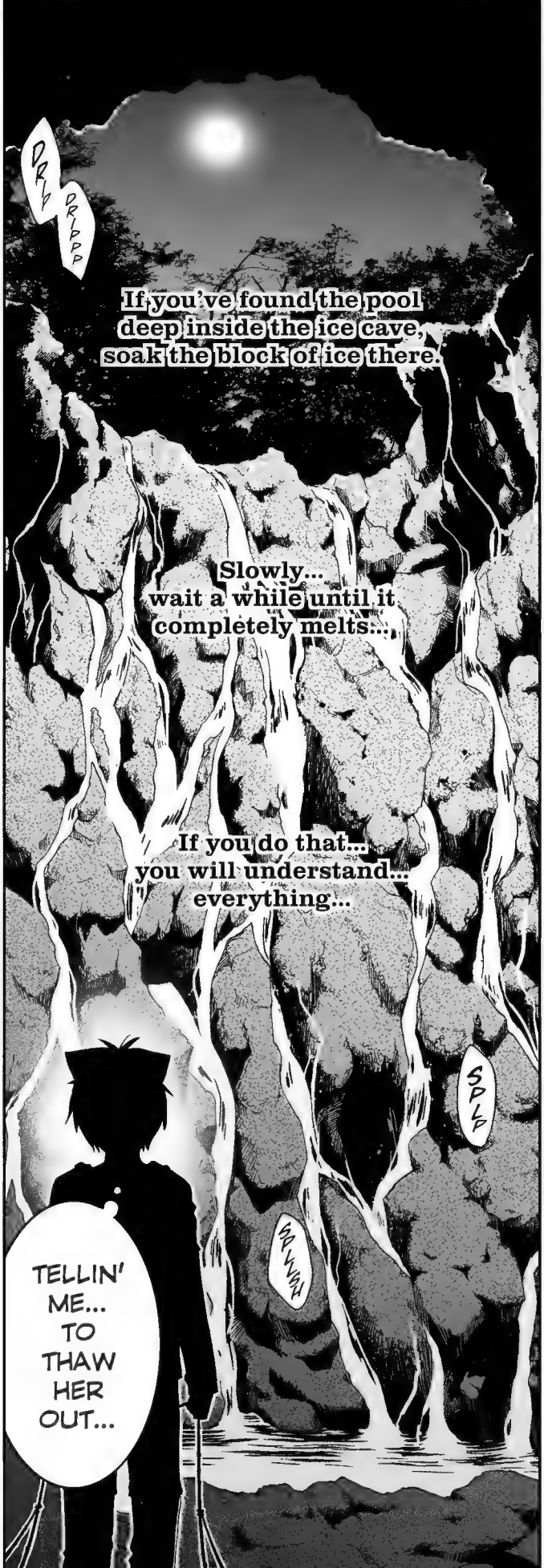
46 YUZU... NA...

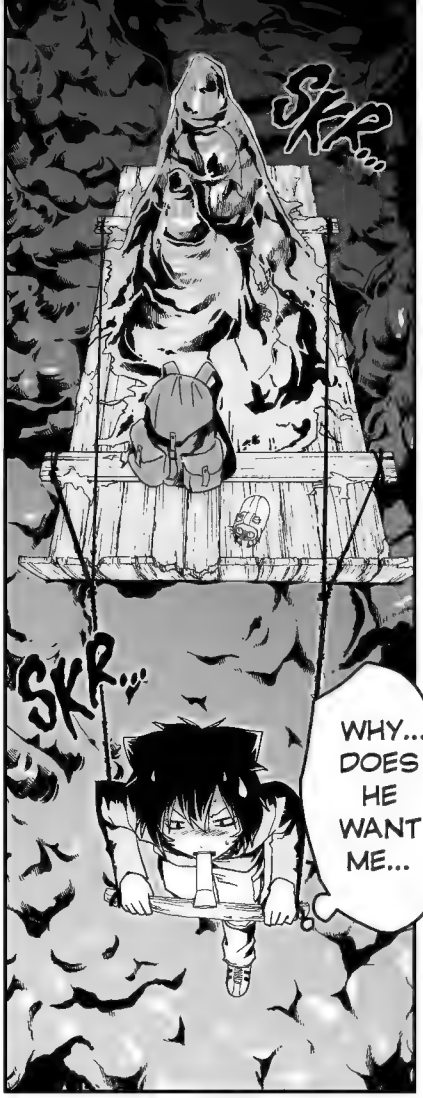
DEAD SNOW

M...
OM...
?

I MEAN... YOUR BONES ARE IN OUR FAMILY GRAVE...
WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?!
NO WAY ...
THUD

...! IT'S NOT HER ...
THE HAIR-STYLE IS SIMILAR, BUT IT'S NOT MY MOM...IT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON!!
Her chest wasn't this big either...
...WHICH MEANS?! HUH? WAIT, WAIT, WAIT?! SO JUST WHO THE HECK IS THIS ...?!
slide...
DON'T TELL ME THAT GRANDPA... MURDERED SOMEONE A LONG TIME AGO AND HAD BEEN HIDING THEIR BODY HERE, OR SOME-THING...?!
All right, Chihiro...
SKR
If you've found it...
SKR
...carry it, base and all, deep into cave.
SKR...
THIS IS... GETTING KIND OF SKETCHY, ISN'T IT ?!
AM I BE-COMING AN AC-CESSORY TO HIS CRIME...?
SKR...


DRIP
DRIPPP
If you've found the pool deep inside the ice cave, soak the block of ice there.
Slowly... wait a while until it completely melts...
If you do that... you will understand... everything...
SPLP
SPLLSH
TELLIN' ME... TO THAW HER OUT...


SKR...
SKR...
WHY... DOES HE WANT ME...

PLLP
DRP!

...TO GO OUT OF MY WAY... FOR SOME-THING... LIKE THIS ...?
CRNCH
!

EVEN IF I DID THAT, WHAT DOES HE THINK I'M GOING TO UNDER-STAND ...?
THERE'S NO WAY THIS DEAD BODY IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR US...
OFF
...HUH ...?!
NHAA !!
CHAPTER 16

W... WAIT, THERE'S NO REASON YOU NEED TO SLEEP IN MY BED, IS THERE?!
HUH, DON'T SAY THAT. LET'S GO TO BED TOGETH- ER.
BUUUT... ISN'T IT FUN TO FOOL AROUND UNDER THE COVERS ?
I'M NOT INTER- ESTED IN STUFF LIKE THAT ...
JEEZ... EVEN IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY, YOU STILL DO THE SAME THINGS.
HUH ... IS THAT RIGHT ?
IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BE FUN, I'M TELLING YOU.
LOOK, PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
TUG
aaahh
LIKE GENTLY NIBB- LING ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GENTLE NIB...

GAAPE
SNATCH
... HUH ?
JUST NOW... A MOMENT... OF THE TURBID PERIOD ...?!
?

VWEE
VWEEE
!!!
I GUESS... I'M JUST IMAGINING THINGS...
VWEE
OH, I'M NOT GOING TO BITE YOU FOR REAL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HUH... NO...
DARIN! THERE'S SOME-THING I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU...
CHI-HIRO? WHERE ARE YOU CALL-ING ME FROM RIGHT NOW ?
!!!
AH!
BEEP
HELLO?
...HM?
WHO IS IT AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?
CREE
CREE...

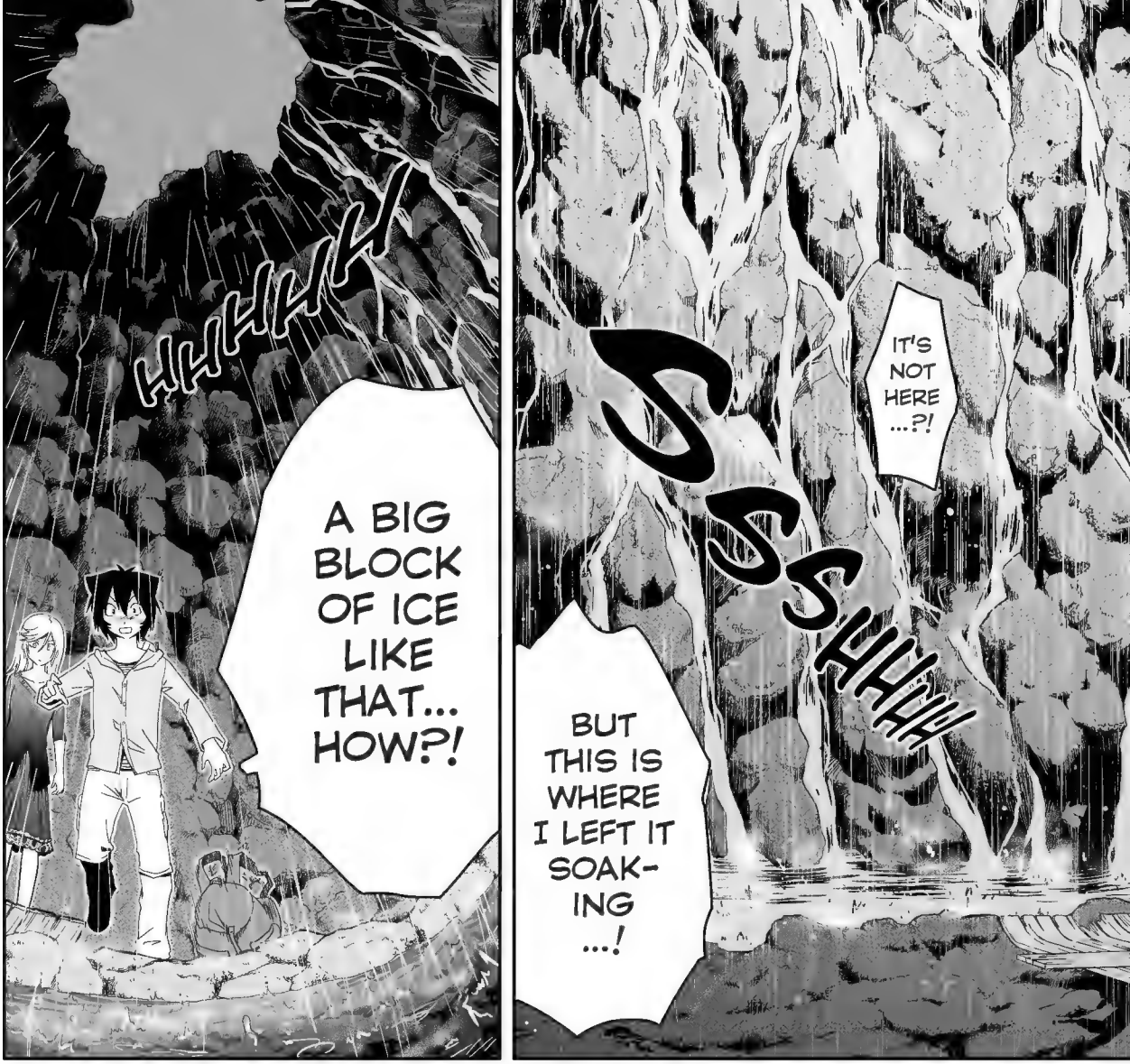
A FRO-ZEN ...
...ZOM-BIE ?!
W... WAIT A SEC-OND.
PROBABLY... IT SEEMS LIKE ONE OF THE ZOM-BIES THAT GRANDPA MADE A LONG TIME AGO...
I'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM THE PROFES-SOR.
IS IT... REALLY A ZOM-BIE?!
I DON'T KNOW... I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF THAWING IT OUT NOW.
BUT... FROM GRANDPA'S INSTRUC-TIONS, I CAN'T IMAGINE IT WOULD BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT...
SO DARIN DOESN'T KNOW EITHER...

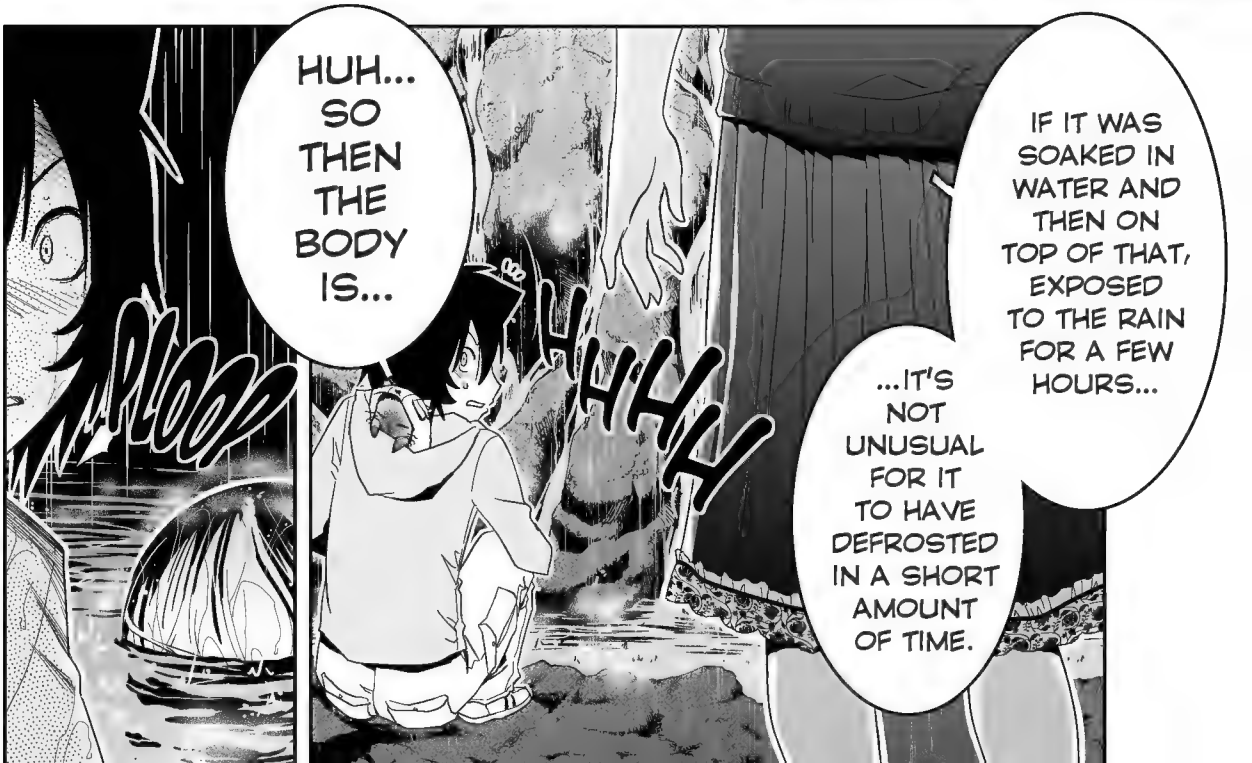
CLACK
BY ICE CAVE, YOU MEAN THE ONE NEXT TO THAT CAMP-GROUND WE WENT TO BEFORE?
...I'LL HEAD THERE RIGHT AWAY.
HUH... BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT NOW?! HOW ARE YOU...?
BY TAXI, OBVI-OUSLY!
I've got an AMEX.
DIS-TANCE-WISE I THINK I CAN GET THERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF.
SHU...T
...
DARIN... I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU ...
ALONE
I'M STARTING TO GET A LITTLE SCARED, WITH JUST BUB AND ME HERE ...
COME... QUICK-LY...

ARE YOU GOING OUT THIS LATE AT NIGHT ...?
YOU WAIT HERE.
SLAM
MAKE SURE TO INGEST SOME HYDRAN-GEA EVERY TWO TO THREE HOURS !!
THAT, AND DON'T GO OUT ALONE. I'LL PROBABLY BE BACK IN THE MORNING.
OKAYY.
VWOOO...MM
SSSSHHHHH
Y... YOU'RE LATE!! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU COULD COME IN AN HOUR AND A HALF ?!
I CAN'T HELP IT, CAN I? THE SPEED LIMIT OF THE FREEWAY WAS RESTRICTED DUE TO THE SUDDEN STORM.

I DON'T KNOW THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT LEAD TO THE PROFESSOR QUITTING HIS RESEARCH AFTER HE LEFT ZOMA, EITHER.
...MY FATHER ACTED LIKE HE KNEW A BIT, THOUGH ...
IF THE PROFESSOR REALLY DID KEEP A SAMPLE THROUGH CRYO-PRESERVATION...
PLIP
PLIP...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MONITORING IT!
OH... I HAVEN'T LOOKED SINCE THEN...
B... BUT...
THIS ISN'T...A DOUBLE SUICIDE, IS IT...?
...MORE IMPORTANTLY, JUST A SECOND...
HN?
WITH THE SAMPLES THAT WE TRIED FREEZING FOR A FEW DAYS, THERE WERE HARDLY ANY THAT RESUMED THEIR ACTIVITY ONCE THAWED OUT.
AND EVEN THE FEW THAT DID RESUME ACTIVITY WOULD ONLY DO SO FOR LESS THAN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE LOSING MOBILITY. AFTER THAT, THEY DID NOT RETURN TO LIFE EVEN AFTER BEING MEDICATED AGAIN...
PLIP...
HEY... IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ZOMBIES TO BE IN SOMETHING LIKE A COLD SLEEP IN THE FIRST PLACE?
PLOOP

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN CLINGING TO ME ALL THIS TIME...?
OH... NO... IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A GHOST MIGHT APPEAR ...
GRIP...
I... IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT?
Geez... Pull yourself together.
NO, NO, NO, THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
SWING
SWING
YOU... SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY ARE ZOMBIES OKAY BUT GHOSTS AREN'T?!
WE'RE HERE. THIS IS IT...!
...
HUH?
SSSHHH


SSSHHH
IT'S NOT HERE ...?!
BUT THIS IS WHERE I LEFT IT SOAK-ING ...!
HHHHH
A BIG BLOCK OF ICE LIKE THAT... HOW?!


IF IT WAS SOAKED IN WATER AND THEN ON TOP OF THAT, EXPOSED TO THE RAIN FOR A FEW HOURS...
...IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR IT TO HAVE DEFROSTED IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
HHHH
HUH... SO THEN THE BODY IS...
PLOP

WAAHHH!
LOOOOOOOMMM

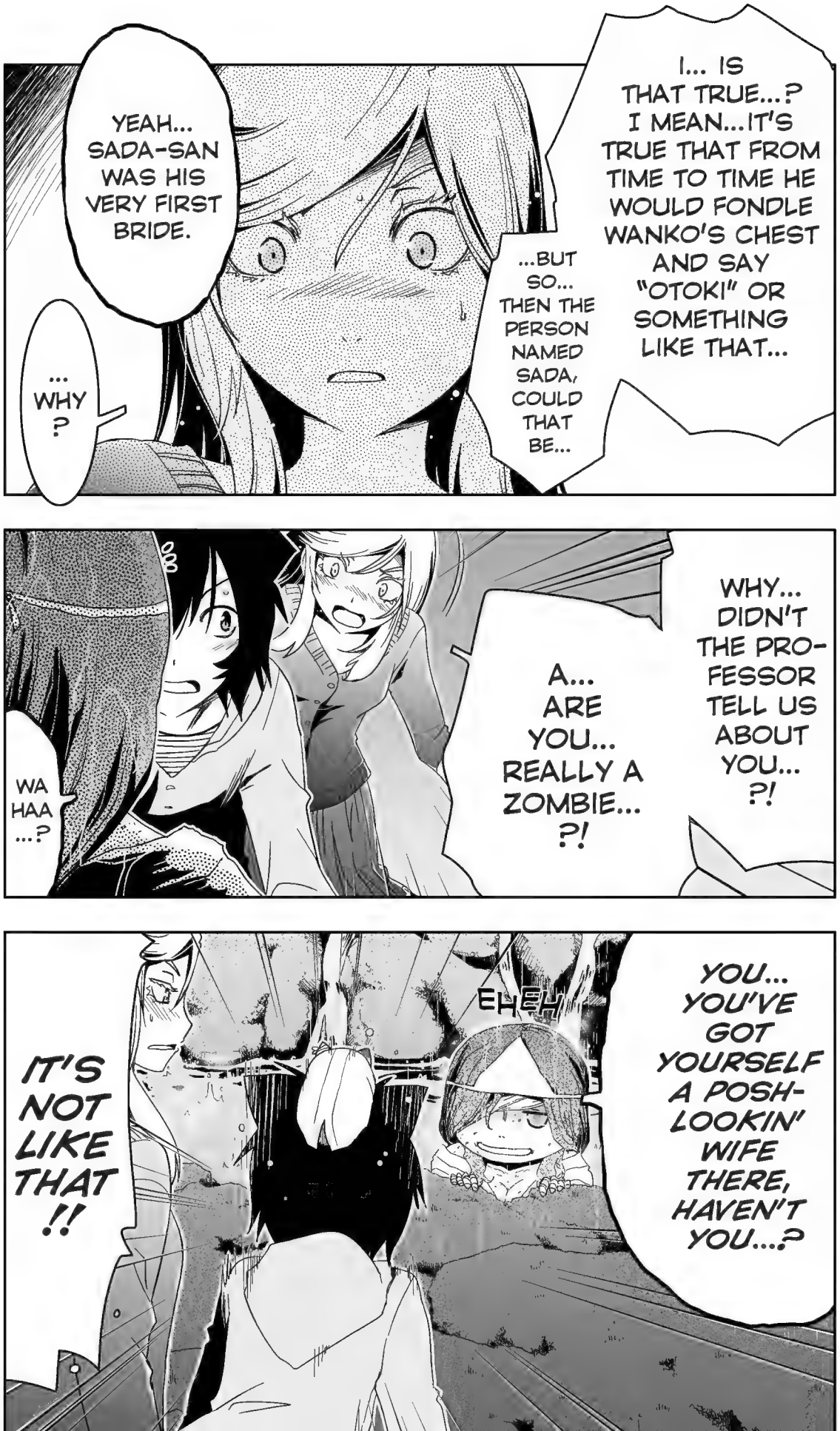
SPLOOP
GAH... BAH...
GHGEH... GEH...
HACK.
COUGHH...
SP-SPLOOPP

POINT
GET'S
!!
SSSHHHH
HA
...?
...
HHHHHH

WAHA ...?
THAT REAC-TION ...
COULD IT... BE, THIS JOKE... ISN'T HIP ANYMORE ...?
E HE HE...
What...
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, THAT'S NOT EVEN ON THE LEVEL OF WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
CHIHIRO ... DO YOU KNOW HER?
NO, I DON'T ...
OH ...?
WHAAH... YOU... ARE YOU CHIHIRO-SAN...?
HUH ?

W... WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME ...?
HAR
HAR
AHA-HAHA-HAA, SO YOU ARE... AFTER ALL.
YOU'VE GROWN BIG...
... YES.
AS FOR ME ?
TUG
EHE
I'M... OTOKI.
I'M JOGOROH-SAN'S... WIFE...

BY THE WAY... I'M SURE THAT KIYO-SAN...
...WAS JOGOROH-SAN'S THIRD, WASN'T SHE...?
NHHMMMM
?!
SHE... SHE KNOWS ABOUT GRANDMA, TOO...?
SHE WAS SICKLY TO START OFF WITH AND HAD BEEN LIVING AT THE HOSPITAL SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG, POOR THING...
HIS WIII-IIFE ?!
W... WAIT JUST A SEC-OND.
GRANDPA HAD A WIFE NAMED KIYO... MY GRANDMA, WHO PASSED AWAY FIVE YEARS AGO, THOUGH...
AH... SO KIYO-SAN PASSED, THEN ?


I... IS THAT TRUE...? I MEAN...IT'S TRUE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME HE WOULD FONDLE WANKO'S CHEST AND SAY "OTOKI" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...BUT SO... THEN THE PERSON NAMED SADA, COULD THAT BE...
YEAH... SADA-SAN WAS HIS VERY FIRST BRIDE.
... WHY ?
WHY... DIDN'T THE PROFESSOR TELL US ABOUT YOU...?!
A... ARE YOU... REALLY A ZOMBIE...?!
WA HAA ...?
EHEH
YOU... YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A POSH-LOOKIN' WIFE THERE, HAVEN'T YOU...?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!

I MEAN... OTOKI-SAN, WHY ARE YOU FROZEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
SSSHHH
AHH...
WAIT, WAIT.
I JUST CAME BACK, SO MY BRAIN CAN'T CATCH UP...
OKAY... I DON'T HAVE TIME... TO TALK AT LENGTH...
HHHHHHHHH
BUT LET ME... TELL YOU ABOUT EVERY-THING IN THE PROPER ORDER...
FIRST... TELL ME TODAY'S DATE...
OH... UM... IT'S JUNE 19TH, 2012...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO JOGOROH... SAN...?
R... RIGHT NOW HE'S AT A FACILITY OVERSEAS... HE GOT A LITTLE SICK OVER THERE...
SSSSSSHHHHH
IN THE DIRECTIONS WRITTEN IN A LETTER GRANDPA GAVE ME...
...IT SAID TO DEFROST THE BLOCK OF ICE IN THE ICE CAVE... IN SHORT, YOU, OTOKI-SAN...
...
...I SEE.
AND SO... THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE...
HHHHHHHHHH
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN FROZEN, OTOKI-SAN ...?
AH ...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...? I SUPPOSE IT'S BEEN QUITE A LONG WHILE...

TO BEGIN WITH, AT ZOMA THERE WERE HARDLY ANY WHO COULD RESUME ACTIVITY AFTER BEING DEFROSTED LIKE YOU!! WHAT ON EARTH DID THE PROFESSOR DO TO YOU?!
SKR
HEY, AS FAR AS THOSE THEORIES GO, RIGHT NOW ISN'T...
FOR YOU TO BE PERFECTLY BACK TO NORMAL TO THE POINT THAT YOU CAN EVEN SPEAK...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOU'RE ONLY ... GET-TING A GOOD LOOK AT...
... MY TOP HALF ...

SSSSHHHHHHH
MY LOWER HALF HAS ALREADY CRUMBLED APART IN THE DEPTHS OF THE WATER...
EVEN FOR MY TOP HALF... IT'S JUST A MATTER... OF TIME...

...FOR ME TO HAVE BEEN THAWED OUT WITHOUT JOGOROH-SAN AROUND... MEANS...
...THAT I'M THE ONE THAT HAS TO TELL YOU... CHIHIRO-SAN
SSSSHHHHHHHHHH
ABOUT WHAT MADE JOGOROH-SAN START WORKING... ON THE REANIMA-TION ELIXIR...
...AND THEN ...
...ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITH YUZUNA-SAN... THAT CAUSED HIM TO STOP HIS RESEARCH...

chee chee...

chee chee chee...

HUH... WHO'S THAT? YUZUNA ...?!

IT'S MY...

MY... MOTHER...

... HM ?
MR... BIRD ?
COO
CU-COO
FL-FLAPP
HE HE ...
HEHEHE HEHEHE ...
CUO
COO-PO

TAP
TAP
TAP
LA-LAH
TAP
TAP
LAHH
SLICE THROUGH THE WIND ...
MY HEART'S FEELINGS ARE SOME-HOW...
...IN A COOL DOWN...
Feels good, doesn't it, Raiohmaru?
TAP
TAP
TAP
HM ?
HUUHH? REA-SAMA?

GOO-OOOD MOO-OOR-NIINNG!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, ARE YOU GOING FOR A MORNING WALK TOO, REA-SAMA?
... OH
GOOD MORNING.
ARE YOU ALSO... HAVING ...
... YOUR MORNING MEAL ...?

FWOOSH
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 10

END-OF-VOLUME BONUS COMIC

WELL THEN... WE'VE COME TO THE SECTION AT THE END OF THE VOLUME, BUT IT SEEMS THAT TO ACCOMMODATE THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS BOOK AND WHATNOT, WE ONLY HAVE THREE PAGES.

THEREFORE, THIS TIME AROUND WE'LL CHANGE THE CONTENTS A LITTLE BIT AND DO A SPECIAL COLLECTION OF WHAT HAS COME TO TAKE UP A FULL TENTH OF ALL THE SUBMISSIONS (CURRENTLY ABOUT 2200 TOTAL)...

TA-DAAA

REDUCED-PAGE SPECIAL (?) PLAN:

MERO'S COSTUME EXTRAVAGANZA

THE VOLUME WHERE... I FOCUS ON ANSWERING THE GREAT NUMBER OF COSPLAY REQUESTS WE RECEIVE.

Request 1:

I want Mero-chan to wear a Chinese dress.

IT SEEMS THAT FOR SOME REASON WE HAVE BEEN GETTING MORE OF THIS REQUEST THAN BEFORE...

I WAS RATHER SURPRISED BY THIS COUPLING THAT TRANSCENDS SPACE AND TIME.
Request 2:
I want Mero-chan and Darin (in her childhood) to cosplay as angels!
Request 3:
I want Mero-chan and Wanko-chan to carry randoseru on their backs.
Why do I have to do something like this...?
WANKO
Thank you, thank you.
THE SIGHT OF RANKO-DONO'S PLUMP BODY IN TIGHT CLOTHING IS A FEAST FOR THE EYES.
ME
ME

Request 4:
I want to see Mero-chan dressed in a miko's dress. I want to see Rea do miko cosplay, too!!
I wonder why that is...?
Request 5:
I want to see Mero in braids and eyeglasses!
REA AND I HAVE BOTH SEPARATELY RECEIVED A VARIETY OF REQUESTS, BUT BEING THAT THIS WORKED RATHER NICELY, WE DID IT TOGETHER... IT SEEMS LIKE REQUESTS FOR A MIKO WERE ALSO RATHER NUMEROUS...
HOW WAS THAT? SINCE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF IT WERE ONLY ME, I TRIED GETTING EVERYONE AROUND ME INVOLVED... NEXT TIME, WE'LL RETURN TO OUR USUAL ZEN RIDDLES... PROBABLY.
"Mero's Zen Riddles" e-mail address:
kodanshacomics@randomhouse.com
(Put something like "Zen Riddles" or "Questions for Mero" in the subject line.)

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 86: Hirumaji?!
This appears to be a parody of typical Japanese midday talk shows. If translated, it could be roughly translated as "MiddayNoWay?!"

Page 86: Good medicine tastes bitter!!
A Japanese proverb that means important or beneficial information is sometimes difficult to take, etc. Ichie is obviously using it incorrectly here.

Page 88: Kyao!
The original kanji (Chinese character) used here is the one for "fear" or "terror" (恐), and this can be pronounced as "kyou." The pronunciation here has been changed to "kyao," which is closer to "Ciao." This makes it sound cute and hip and it's just the sort of thing you might hear in a Japanese pop song of this caliber.

Page 114: NGH GH GH
This appears to be a reference to the famous animated show "Sazae-san" where following the preview at the end of each episode, the main character Sazae-san is startled by the audience as she pops some food into her mouth and subsequently gets the food stuck in her throat for a moment before swallowing. "NGH GH GH" or "N GA GU GU" in Japanese, is the sound that she makes during all this.

Page 119: Ran ran piii
This may be a reference to a Japanese McDonalds ad from eight or so years ago where Ronald McDonald makes the same gesture and says "ran ran ruu." This phrase is basically nonsense, but it became somewhat of a popular meme when it originally came out.

Page 127: Oriental zombie girls are good too, aru yo.
By "Oriental," which is literally what Chihiro says, he means Chinese specifically, and "aru yo" is a (pretty culturally insensitive) imitation of the way a stereotypical Chinese person speaks Japanese.

Page 141: sokushin-butsu
An ancient practice in which Buddhist monks would self-mummify themselves by holing up in a cave and abstaining from food and drink until death. They usually did it sitting in a lotus position, which is why Chihiro thinks Otoki looks like one.

Page 156: Get's!!
A reference to Japanese comedian Dandy Sakano, who uses this gesture and saying as a catchphrase. It is often the case that every year or so, a new Japanese comedian will find their fame with a one-liner to eventually become passé when the next funny catchphrase comes along. "Get's" was popular in the early 2000s but would now sound outdated and cheesy.

Page 172: randoseru
The name for typical leather backpacks carried by grade-school children all over Japan as part of their required uniform. Normally, girls carry red ones while boys carry black ones, although they make them in a wide variety of colors.

Page 173: miko
A Shinto shrine maiden. They are usually depicted wearing a white kimono with bright red hakama pants.

DEDUCTIVE DOG DETECTIVE

When Takeru adopts a new pet, he's in for a surprise—the dog is none other than the reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes. With no one else able to communicate with Holmes, Takeru is roped into becoming Sherdog's assistant, John Watson. Using his sleuthing skills, Holmes uncovers clues to solve the trickiest crimes.

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